

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RICHARD KOOB ASCENDS TO
PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL FI-
NANCIAL ADVISORS GROUP

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate my good friend Richard A. Koob on his installation in Charlotte, North Carolina as President of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA). My best wishes go out to him as he takes the reins of leadership for this prestigious organization.

Mr. Koob has been a Financial Representative for the Northwestern Financial Network since 1967, having become a member while he was still in college. Over the course of his distinguished career, Dick has received numerous awards, including the Wisconsin State Association of Life Underwriters Distinguished Service Award. He is a two-time honoree of the Waukesha Association of Life Underwriters Distinguished Service Award, and has been recipient of the National Association of Life Underwriters National Quality Award for 26 years, and its National Sales Achievement Award for 18 years. He is also a 26-year member of the Million Dollar Round Table.

In addition to his involvement in NAIFA, Richard Koob has played key roles in numerous professional organizations throughout his career, including director of the Wisconsin State Association of Life Underwriters Committee on Political Action. Despite his busy schedule, he has also found time to be active in his community, being involved with a number of groups, such as the Lions International Foundation, the Knights of Columbus, and the Waukesha Chamber of Commerce. Dick has also served as vice-president of his Parish Council and as chair of Catholic Memorial High School's Crusader Auctions. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a recipient of the Governors Award for Outstanding Service.

Dick Koob has dedicated his life to service; to his clients, to his community, and to his country. I have no doubt that he will provide outstanding leadership to NAIFA as its new president, and I join with his wife Judy, his children Kimberly, Melissa and Christopher, his colleagues and his many friends in offering my warm congratulations, and my best wishes as he takes on this new challenge.

HONORING CHANDLER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Chandler Elementary School in recognition of their outstanding work in the pro-

duction of "Jason McDaniel Is a Mean Little Boy!" Mark Scarpelli and Dan Kehde wrote this play.

The "Talk Back Staff" provided an opportunity for students to promote respect and self-esteem in a creative way. Their dedication to the children of Chandler Elementary is to be commended.

The cast members, composed of kindergarten through fifth grade students, should be proud of their outstanding performance. They used their skills and talents to show how they may be able to influence others to solve problems without using violence.

Kanawha County Schools, faculty, and staff upheld the goal of this play to help equip the children with proper attitudes and understanding in the efforts to stop harmful effects of the negative images in our media.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chandler Elementary School on a job well done.

HONORING THE PEOPLE OF
OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the people of Outback Steakhouse for their strong support of our brave troops fighting the war on terrorism. Fifteen employees from Outback restaurants flew more than 7,000 miles to Afghanistan to prepare 6,700 steaks, 30,000 shrimp, and 3,000 giant onions for our courageous men and women. The members of "Mission Outback" as it was called, arrived in a C-17 at the Kandahar Airport with one objective: to deliver a message of appreciation from back home in the form of deep-fried onions, Rib-Eye steaks, grilled shrimp, french fries, mixed vegetables, and cheesecake. The thousands of military men and women could not have been more excited and thankful for the delicious taste of home.

This philanthropic concept was born by the CEO of Outback, Chris Sullivan, whose compassion and generosity made the steak dinner possible. Together with Central Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Outback had to coordinate the transport of thousands of pounds of food and the military clearance of fifteen people to cook in a war zone across the globe.

Similar to our military missions in Afghanistan, "Mission Outback" was brief and on-target. The employees were in Kandahar for three days, preparing food almost the entire time.

Outback Steakhouse has had a long history of providing assistance to our great nation. Most recently, the chain of Outback restaurants raised over \$8.5 million for Dine-Out for America, a nation-wide fundraising event for victims of the September 11th terrorist at-

tacks. The money went directly to the American Red Cross and its Liberty Disaster Relief Fund.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question that I speak for the thousands of troops in Afghanistan in thanking the people of Outback Steakhouse for their service to the United States and I ask that Congress join me in recognizing their exceptional contributions to our men and women in uniform.

BIG-TIME OOPS!

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, when I became the representative of a district with significant commercial fishing activity after the 1992 redistricting, I became aware of a strong view among many who fish for a living that the quality of scientific knowledge on which fishing regulation was based left a great deal to be desired. In particular, fishermen have from time to time argued that their experience has demonstrated that there were in fact more fish than the regulators were counting. No one has greater interest in the sustainability of our fisheries than the fishermen themselves, and I was therefore impressed with the force of their arguments. My willingness to listen to their arguments was not based simply on this predisposition, but rather on the very convincing factual cases they made. Because of their persuasive arguments, I have in two instances, worked with people in the fishing industry to secure funds for independent research, and in both of these cases the results were to confirm that the fishermen were right and that there were in fact far more fish available—in part as a result of sensible conservation practices—than previous science had indicated.

Most recently, fishermen were hit with a very restrictive decision by Judge Gladys Kessler which threatens the ability of many in this industry to make a living, and which threatens also very importantly to drive up the price of this important protein rich commodity for consumers by severely restricting the catch. Once again many fishermen expressed some skepticism about the science on which these restrictions were based.

Recently, that skepticism has been dramatically confirmed. The National Marine Fisheries Service announced last week that the data about the amount of fish in New England waters on which recent decisions have been based was flawed, which argues strongly that there is in fact a greater stock available than previously maintained by NMFS. Specifically, as the New Bedford Standard Times summarized in its recent editorial, "The NMFS scientist did not properly calibrate the trawl they use for annual fall and spring surveys in New England waters. One side of the trawl had a cable much longer than the other side, making it impossible for the gear to efficiently gather groundfish."

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this very thoughtful editorial by the New Bedford Standard Times be inserted here, because I know it strikes this important point, and argues thoughtfully and persuasively for NMFS to follow its admission of error with corrective action. Further, Mr. Speaker, when this House debates the renewal of the sustainable fisheries act, known as the Magnuson Act, this admission by NMFS that it had seriously undercounted the amount of fish in New England waters will be relevant as I and others talk about the need to revise fishing regulation in a manner that will make it less likely that unnecessary restrictions will be imposed on hardworking people based on faulty data.

[lsqb]From the Sunday Standard Times,
Sept. 15, 2002[rsqb]

NMFS HAS YET ANOTHER REASON FOR COOPERATION

What a relief it must have been for hundreds of commercial fishermen in New Bedford and throughout New England this week when scientists at the National Marine Fisheries Service in Woods Hole announced that their data for the last two years was flawed.

Big-time oops!

There's nothing as satisfying as learning that you aren't crazy after wondering whether you are.

Many of our region's fishermen must have thought they were going crazy, as they pulled up increasing numbers of groundfish in the last two years, but were told by scientists that many groundfish species were not recovering from decades of overfishing.

The NMFS scientists did not properly calibrate the trawl they use for annual fall and spring surveys in New England waters. One side of the trawl had a cable much longer than the other side, making it impossible for the gear to efficiently gather groundfish. It also made it impossible for the data from these two years to be compared with data from previous years.

The NMFS admission is particularly important because this region's fishermen are now under some of the strictest regulations they have ever experienced. How this mistake will affect those regulations remains an open question.

But the National Marine Fisheries Service should take this as a strong sign that more fishermen need to be involved with scientific research for the sake of the fishermen, the scientists, and overall accuracy in reporting fish numbers.

Just as there have been federal science observers on fishing boats, there should be fishermen observing the scientific methods used aboard federal trawl survey boats. Environmental advocates also should be part of the review as another check and balance.

NMFS would be wise to quickly establish a review panel consisting of fishermen, gear experts, environmental observers and scientists to examine the data in question and determine the changes that are needed in current fishing regulations based on these errors. Do we allow more fishing of some species, less, or wait for new data?

And it wouldn't hurt for scientists from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center to make a humble and public apology to fishermen for the error that could have a significant effect on their lives, their families and the port communities where they live.

TIME FOR REGIME CHANGE IN BURMA

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate September 18th, 2002, the 14 year anniversary of one of freedom's great tragedies. On this day in 1988, a military regime assumed power in the country of Burma during a brutal crackdown, slaughtering approximately 10,000 nonviolent demonstrators in the streets of Rangoon and throughout the nation over a period of months. Were these demonstrators committing some crime? Had they broken the law of the land? Were they planning some heinous act of treason?

The answer is no on all three counts—they did not, had not, and were not.

The people of Burma are guilty only of sacrificing for the same dreams that have summoned greatness in men and women alike throughout history: freedom, democracy, and human rights. As Burma's 1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has said, "... even under the most crushing state machinery courage rises up again and again, for fear is not the natural state of civilized man."

September 18th, 1988 was not only a tragedy, however. It was also a day of great hope. Since 1988, the Burmese people's courage has never for one instant waned or even cooled. In 1990, despite harassment, arrest, and intimidation, the National League for Democracy was voted into power with an astounding 82% of the seats in parliament. We members of Congress, as elected officials, in particular should understand the uniqueness of this victory. I know most of my colleagues in this building would do anything for that kind of mandate. In 1991, 1996, and 1998, the people of Burma and the National League for Democracy demanded recognition of this election with demonstrations and party gatherings that resulted in widespread arrests and subsequent torture. And, in August of this year, Burmese students again took to the streets in Rangoon, calling for the release of all of Burma's political prisoners.

We know from our own history that the struggle for freedom is not easy nor is it without sacrifice. The sudden rush of change might come at any time, whether through the crumbling of a wall or a crowd's deafening cry for democracy in the streets. We do know, however, that the United States of America has always stood for the principles that our nation was founded upon, and we will continue to support those that share our dreams.

Burma's military regime should be put on notice that the United States will neither forget September 18th, and what it represents for the Burmese people, nor tire in our belief in freedom. Most importantly, the regime should also know that many of us in the United States Congress are growing weary of the constant stalling and delaying of a full-scale political dialogue that includes Burma's ethnic nationalities. Now is the time for change in Burma and I urge my colleagues to join me in calling for that change.

TRIBUTE TO ALLEN LEFKO

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a longtime community and business leader in Jackson County, MO, will be receiving the Humanitarian of the Year Award at the Truman Heartland Community Foundation annual gala dinner, "A Salute to Hometown Heroes." Mr. Allen Lefko has demonstrated a strong commitment to the area and its economic development and has helped to ensure a brighter future for all residents and businesses.

Mr. Lefko has developed and maintained an excellent reputation through the years by his many achievements. He is the founder, President, and CEO of Noland Road Bank; Chairman of the Board and CEO of the Bank of Grain Valley and Grain Valley Bancshares, Incorporated; President of the Independence Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; President of the Independence Rotary Club; member of the Independence Regional Health Center Board of Trustees; founder, President, and Treasurer of the Association for Industrial Development for Independence; President of the Suburban Banker Association and the Kansas City Clearing House Association; President of the Grain Valley Economic Development Council; and Choices program sponsor and instructor.

Mr. Lefko has volunteered much of his time to the communities of eastern Jackson County. He has served on many YMCA and Boy Scout committees and has been engaged in such important committees and boards as the Grain Valley Arts and Beautification Council Fund, Grain Valley Senior Citizens Nutrition Program Fund, and the Association for Industrial Development for Independence Scholarship Fund. Mr. Lefko has also participated in the I-Share Campaign, the selection of Rotary/City of Independence Teacher's Truman Scholarship Fund recipients, Independence and Grain Valley Chambers of Commerce, the Board of Directors of the Grain Valley Assistance Council, and he was an auctioneer for the Grain Valley Assistance Council annual fund drive.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Allen Lefko all the best. We thank him for over 40 years of dedicated service to eastern Jackson County.

AMENDING LEGAL DEFINITION OF LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, today, I have introduced legislation that will amend the legal definition of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to include the expedition's route between Wood River, Illinois and the Falls of the Ohio, which rests between Clarksville, Indiana and Louisville, Kentucky.

I am grateful that representatives ANNE NORTHUP and MARK SOUDER have joined me

as original cosponsors of the Bill. Senator EVAN BAYH of Indiana is also introducing companion legislation in the Senate.

In October 1803, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark first met at the Falls of the Ohio, recruited the first members of the Corps of Discovery and departed for the west from Clarks-ville, Indiana on October 26, 1803.

Our country will begin commemorating the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition next year. Southern Indiana and Louisville, Kentucky will host a "National Signature Event" to mark the important events that happened at the Falls of the Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, the upcoming bicentennial has caused many of us to more carefully examine the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. We discovered that many important sites like the Falls of the Ohio have not been properly recognized in the past. The Falls of the Ohio State Park in Indiana and historic Locust Grove in Louisville, Kentucky have now been certified by the National Park Service as official sites associated with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

However, there is now a disconnect between the legal definition of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail passed by Congress in 1978 and the sites that have been certified by the National Park Service as significant to the Lewis and Clark story. This bill will extend the Trail corridor to include important sites between Wood River and the Falls of the Ohio.

It will also do more than correct current law to include sites that both the Park Service and Lewis and Clark scholars have noted as significant. By extending the official Trail to include more Eastern sites, a larger portion of the U.S. Population will be within driving distance of the Trail. This means more people in the east will learn about the Lewis and Clark story and be more likely to make a point of exploring Western segments of the Trail. This will significantly boost tourism all along the Lewis and Clark Trail.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment to the National Trails System Act is long overdue. With the upcoming Lewis and Clark bicentennial only months away, this is the perfect time to ensure the Lewis and Clark Trail properly reflects the expedition's history. I hope the House will soon consider this legislation and pass it into law.

FOURTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY END OF DEMOCRACY IN BURMA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to commemorate a very sad day in Burma. Today, September 18th, marks the 14-year anniversary of the Burmese military regime's bloody takeover of Burma, after gunning down an estimated 10,000 non-violent demonstrators throughout the country. Since that awful day, the Burmese people, led by the courageous 1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, have against great odds never given up their hope, their belief, and their struggle for the kind of freedom we have enjoyed in this country. This

struggle was enshrined into political reality when Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy won a democratic election in 1990 with 82% of the seats in parliament—a landslide election the regime has never recognized.

Today, I commend the 50 million people of Burma on their struggle, and call on them to never give up their passionate belief that freedom and democracy should not be reserved for a small number of western nations, but extended to all men and women. Freedom and democracy are your rights. You struggle on the side of truth, and sooner or later, truth always triumphs over darkness.

Recently, our hopes for change in Burma were raised. In May of this year, just as my colleagues and I in the U.S. Congress were strongly considering to greatly expand international pressure on the regime, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was released from 19 months of house arrest. At the time, we hoped that her release signaled the start of a tripartite political dialogue in Burma that would include the regime, ethnic nationalities, and the National League for Democracy. My distinguished colleague and chair of the House International Relations Committee, Henry Hyde, and I stated, "It is our hope that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's release represents the dawn of a new era in Burmese history. However, first the junta must demonstrate through concrete actions a serious and consistent commitment to national reconciliation."

However, we were proven right to be cautious. The junta has yet to show a serious commitment to these discussions, which still must yield tangible reforms and changes toward democracy. It would be a tragedy if the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi ended up mere window dressing for an ongoing litany of abuse. The regime has stonewalled the NLD in its efforts to commence a political dialogue and refused to release all political prisoners while factual reports of an intensified campaign of systematic rapes, massacres, and arrests have increased. The regime terrorizes its own population with particular brutality in the country's ethnic areas, where its soldiers continue to facilitate the drug trade.

I am especially frustrated by the regime's refusal to extradite Khun Sa and other drug lords and end its complicity in production of the methamphetamines and heroin that are destroying the lives of people around the world. Those who have watched this regime's untrustworthy leaders over years know that we must rely on actions rather than words. The regime has not complied with our efforts to stop the global flow of drugs. As long as this narco-regime stays in power, it can expect to receive no assistance from the United States.

Fourteen years is far too long for freedom, and we absolutely must lend our vocal public support to the Burmese people's struggle for freedom. It is time the United States and the international community see through the regime's smoke and mirrors and again move to increase concrete political and economic pres-
sure.

OBSERVING NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Many of the ideals and beliefs that form the backbone of our nation continue to flourish in large part because of the great perseverance and dedication of our nation's armed forces. Unfortunately, as we all know, during war and even smaller armed conflicts there inevitably are troops killed, as well as troops captured by enemy forces or who become missing in action.

It is important that communities regularly honor not only those brave soldiers who risked their lives and were killed, but also remember those who became either missing or prisoners of war. We must show them and their families the appropriate appreciation for their willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice to defend and preserve the democratic principles held so close to the hearts of all Americans.

About one year ago, on September 21st, President G.W. Bush declared that day as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. By establishing a national day of recognition, we have ensured that this country will formally honor every year those soldiers who were captured by the enemy or fallen missing in battle while serving their country.

The establishment and observance of a day of recognition for our prisoners of war and those missing in action is of great importance for the estimated 43,000 retired servicemen who were previously missing or held prisoner and who fortunately were able to return to the United States. It is just as important for the families and loved ones of those who remain unaccounted for or possibly are still in captivity.

Throughout our nation's history the men and women of the armed services have courageously risen to the call of duty ignoring whatever trepidation they may have for their own safety and security. While the numbers who have perished in the line of duty is a tremendous loss, there are also astounding numbers of those who continue to be listed MIA or as POWs.

Our friends and our neighbors, and even some of our elected officials, are former POWs or were listed MIA during their service. More than one-fourth of the American soldiers held prisoner in the past five US conflicts were released by the enemy and returned to the United States again.

World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War era, Operation Desert Storm, and the Kosovo campaign all resulted in soldiers listed as MIA or POW.

Records show that approximately 143,000 Americans were captured and interned during those conflicts. This number includes 81 women seized on Guam or in the Philippines during World War II, and 2 during the Gulf War. Of these 143,000 American soldiers approximately 125,200 have since been returned to United States military control. That leaves almost 20,000 souls unaccounted for from America's 20th century wars and armed conflicts.

As our country wages the war on terrorism and we debate whether to go to war against Iraq, it is more important than ever to remember past sacrifices made by the men and women of America's armed forces. It is crucial to the continued high morale of our military and the peace of mind of missing soldiers' families that we offer our support—we must be clear that their loved ones' efforts were not in vain.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues, the people of Maryland and citizens around the country to celebrate and honor those who have selflessly dedicated their lives to serving their country and have, as a result, been either imprisoned or remain missing. This country owes a debt of gratitude to the current and former POW and MIA soldiers of the United States armed forces.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday September 11, 2001

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, Last week it was my high honor and privilege to join my colleagues in the House and Senate for a Commemorative Joint Session of Congress in New York City to honor the victims and heroes of September 11th.

While we Members of Congress are often engaged in abrasive confrontation, today I look around and see total unity, total recognition that whether Republican or Democrat, we are first and foremost Americans, and the common values we share far outweigh those we do not.

This is the same expression of unity demonstrated by Americans across the country on the days following the terrorist attacks on September 11th. I find comfort in the knowledge that it represents a promise that we will not back down from preserving our freedoms and protecting our homeland from those who wish to destroy our way of life.

And as we revisit some of the darkest moments in our nation's history, we must remember that our Nation has always been one that has triumphed over adversity. Indeed, I think it is fair to say that at times of great despair, America has consistently risen to its greatest hours.

So in remembrance of those lives lost on September 11th, I would like to conclude with some words from President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address:

“that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion * * * that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain * * * that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom * * * and that government of the people * * * by the people * * * for the people * * * shall not perish from the earth.”

HONORING GEORGE GODDARD

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent George Goddard who died on August 15, 2002, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Mr. Goddard was born in Chicago in 1923. After graduating from Yale with a commission as Lt. (jg) in the U.S. Navy, he served on board the communications ship USS *Panamint*, which, during World War II, took the Japanese surrender of the island of Hokkaido.

After moving to Massachusetts in 1948, Mr. Goddard studied architecture at the Harvard School of Design where he was influenced by Walter Gropius and Mies van der Rohe. He moved to Belvedere in Marin County, CA, with his growing family and started his architectural career with Skidmore, Owens and Merrill. He later practiced independently and as a planning consultant designing teaching hospitals and medical and dental schools.

As a lifelong activist in social, political, and conservation causes, George stayed involved. He served on the Belvedere Planning Committee and played an integral role in acquiring Richardson Bay tidelands to save them from development. He also served as supervising architect during the move by barge of Lyford House, an 1870s dairy residence about to fall under the wrecker's ball, to its current home at the Richardson Bay Audubon Sanctuary.

George Goddard loved hiking, backpacking, sailing, and politics. In the 1990s, he organized a group of fellow navy officers into what became known as the Liars Club. Calling themselves Admirals, they met periodically to embellish their war experiences. As no one paid any attention to anyone else, they could go on for years retelling the same enhanced stories. He is survived by his wife Sheret, six children, two grandsons, and six stepchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Goddard was a valued member of the Marin community who will be missed by all who had the opportunity to know him.

EXPERIENCE WORKS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Experience Works, a nonprofit organization that provides training, employment, and community service opportunities for mature workers.

Experience Works provides a valuable service to seniors thru various programs designed to help them enter the workforce, secure a more challenging position, move into a new career, or supplement their income. These services are provided to more than 125,000 people each year thru their offices located in 44 states nationwide and in Puerto Rico. Experience Works programs are funded by more than 75 public and private sources, and are the largest grantee of the federal government's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). Through their work,

they provide seniors the tools to use their many talents to help others in various settings.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to give special recognition to the 2002 Blair County Outstanding Older Worker, Romaine Fleming, and Martin's Food Store, the 2002 Blair County Outstanding Employer of Older Workers. Ms. Fleming was selected for her long-standing contributions to the community. Her most notable contribution is her 34 years of dedicated service to Child Advocates of Blair County, Inc. Ms. Fleming is an inspiration to all those she works with and those she helps in her day to day activities. I congratulate her on this well deserved recognition and thank her for her service to the community of Blair County. I would also like to extend my congratulations for their recognition and my thanks to Martin's Food Store for their outstanding contributions to the community as well. They are an organization that displays a strong respect for mature workers and recognizes all the benefits this workforce can bring to an institution and a community. Their desire to secure older workers demonstrates their belief that the experience and reliability of these workers can add incredible strength to any organization.

I would like to again extend my thanks to Experience Works for all their hard work and contributions they provide the older workers in this country and congratulate Romaine Fleming and Martin's Food Store for their recognition as the 2002 Blair County Outstanding Older Worker and Outstanding Employer of Older Workers, respectively. I wish them all the best of luck as they continue to enrich the lives of others, as well as their own, through their many contributions.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION IN THE APPALACHIAN AND NORTHEAST REGIONS

HON. DON SHERWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to execute thousands of required small aquatic ecosystem restoration projects in the Appalachian region and the Northeastern United States. Currently, the region is estimated to have over 54,000 miles of impaired streams, rivers and coastline. In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania alone 7,261 miles of streams and rivers out of 54,000 miles are classified as impaired. Of this amount 2,711 miles (37 percent) are impaired due to abandoned mine drainage. Contaminated water emanating from abandoned coal mines is one of the most severe and long lasting water pollution and habitat degradation problems in the Appalachian region. Pennsylvania has estimated cost to restore habitat and remediate water quality problems caused by Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) is in excess of \$3.8 billion. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission estimates the economic loss to fisheries and recreation of the 2,711 miles impacted by mine drainage is approximately \$67 million annually.

Moreover, using data from the Environmental Protection Agency, it is apparent the extent of just the aquatic ecosystem problems is enormous; the extent of degraded contributing land resources is likewise of tremendous

scope. For example, West Virginia has 6,213 miles of impaired waters, 69 percent of which, are caused by mine drainage. In both Maryland and New Jersey greater than 25 percent of all surface waters are considered impaired. In New Jersey 76 percent of the impaired waters have impaired aquatic life. New York State has 3,324 miles of impaired waters. Connecticut has 4,119 miles of impaired streams and coastline. Vermont has 757 miles of impaired streams and 21,376 acres of impaired lakes, 43 percent of these have impaired aquatic life. New Hampshire and Maine combined have 3,588 miles of impaired streams/coastline and over 290,000 acres of impaired lakes. Correcting these problems will require both innovative solutions and a broad ecosystem based approach that considers both the waterways, and the land issues contributing to water degradation.

The intent of this legislative proposal is to establish a pilot program, with broad authority for comprehensive restoration in the Appalachian, New England, and Mid-Atlantic Regions of the United States. This authority will begin to address the longstanding problems of abandoned mine drainage and other non-point sources of pollution currently impairing water quality and species diversity on the region. The program is intended to provide seamless authority for the Corps of Engineers to plan, design and implement small ecosystem restoration projects in cooperation with non-Federal partners including States, local Governments and non-profit organizations. The cost sharing provisions of this authority are consistent with other Corps of Engineers continuing authorities and include innovative provisions to allow pilot testing of innovative technologies, allow non-Federal sponsorship by non-profit organizations, and allow non-Federal sponsors credit for in-kind services performed during the feasibility study phase of a project.

The total cost of the proposed legislation over the authorized six year term is \$200,000,000. This amount will not solve the regions' total ecosystem restoration needs but it will contribute substantially to meeting these needs and add to the overall non-Federal efforts currently in process. The estimated benefits of this program include improved water quality, restored ecosystem habitat and increased species diversity, both aquatic and terrestrial, economic benefits associated with restoration of stream and river fisheries, and other intangible benefits to communities associated with the visual improvement of environmental surroundings. This program will also provide much needed technical assistance to States and local communities in the assessment of environmental problems and the development of restoration strategies using the Corps' state of the art watershed modeling techniques and experience gained in environmental restoration.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2002

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of the events of September 11th.

One year ago America suffered a horrible act of terrorism in New York, at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania. Four planes, filled with innocent Americans, were turned into weapons at the hands of men filled with anger and hate, intent on bringing death and destruction to our great country. It is a day none of us will ever forget.

As the United States moves forward, we must remember those who died on September 11th, as well as the acts of heroism, valor and courage displayed on that day and the weeks and months to follow. I continue to find inspiration in the efforts of all Americans who risked their lives to save and heal their neighbors, co-workers, and strangers in need.

Let us also not forget the men and women in our armed forces who today are engaged in a campaign against terrorism, fighting to protect our freedom and seeking justice against those who attacked us. Their continued valor is a testament to the will and resolve of our great nation.

We will continue to pray for the victims and their families as we re-build the communities affected by those terrible acts of violence. Today, one year after this horrific act of terrorism, we, as Americans, re-affirm our highest beliefs in freedom, democracy and justice.

MARKING THE 14TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY RISE TO POWER OF MILITARY DICTATORSHIP IN BURMA

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the fourteenth anniversary of the bloody rise to power of the military dictatorship in Burma. This despotic regime has denied its people basic liberties and freedoms including democratic representation, free speech, and an independent press. Allegations have also come to light that this regime has used the mass rape of women and children to instill fear. They have imprisoned and murdered thousands of their political opponents and closed thirty universities since 1995 to suppress popular student opposition.

I would like to speak specifically to the issue of labor rights in Burma. It is an undisputed fact that the Government of Burma has forced thousands of its citizens into forced labor. Bonded servitude is woven into the social fabric of many nations, but in Burma it is even more contemptuous because it is nothing more than slavery at its core and it is sanctioned by the government and employed by its military.

For many years, international organizations including the International Labor Organization, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights have attempted to get the regime to emancipate its slaves. Burma has flaunted international sanctions and continues to be uncooperative and deny access to human rights organizations investigating these and many other human rights abuses.

Burma's military regime emphatically rejects core labor rights including prohibitions on child labor, forced labor, and freedom of association. This is even more disconcerting because the military elite prop up a system of sweatshops producing textile products for western markets. Even under strict quotas, Burmese textile exports have exploded into the U.S. market creating a direct source of hard currency for the military dictatorship. And there are credible allegations being investigated that many goods skirt sanctions by masking their country of origin.

Textile exports are the life support for the Burmese regime and we need a complete ban on Burmese exports until we see freedom and an end to slavery. I commend my colleagues and the Administration that have stood up for human rights in Burma and kept the pressure on the regime. Now is not the time to relax sanctions, but instead tighten the noose on one of the world's worst totalitarian governments.

SBA 504 AND 7(A) LOAN PROGRAM SUBSIDY RATE CALCULATION

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am concerned about the effects of an unjust tax on borrowers. Every time the Small Business Administration makes a 504 or 7(a) loan, the borrower pays an arbitrary and unnecessary fee.

The subsidy rates for the 504 and 7(a) have not reflected the actual performance of these loan portfolios over the past 11 years since the passage of the Credit Reform Act in 1990. The House Small Business Committee has repeatedly raised this issue with the Office of Management and Budget. OMB continues to use a flawed methodology to determine the cost of these loan programs to the government and SBA borrowers are forced to pay excessive fees that, since 1999, have totaled nearly \$2 billion.

Today, the typical SBA 504 borrower pays more than \$10,000 in excess fees and the typical 7(a) borrower pays more than \$2000 in excess fees to the government because OMB fails to accurately determine the subsidy rates of these loans. Congress never gave OMB the right to impose a \$10,000 tax on every 504 borrower or a \$2000 tax on every 7(a) borrower. Yet that is what OMB is doing by continually overstating these subsidy rates.

The SBA is responsible for more than 40 percent of all long-term lending to small businesses. The inability of OMB to accurately estimate the cost of subsidizing small business loans draws needed resources from the very businesses these programs are intended to assist.

Mr. Speaker, this problem is not a partisan problem. It has existed throughout the previous administration and the current administration. It requires immediate action. It is time to require OMB to recalculate the 7(a) and 504 program subsidy rates for FY 2003.

RECOGNITION TO NORMA BRITO TODD

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a friend and constituent of the Sixth District of New Jersey. Mrs. Norma Brito Todd, who at 82 years of age, works as the director and coordinator of Lunch Break Inc. in Red Bank, New Jersey is being honored as New Jersey's Outstanding Older Worker.

Mrs. Todd was born in Long Branch, New Jersey on October 6, 1920. She was one of five children born to Joseph Brito, a real estate broker, and Lucy Brito, a homemaker. She grew up in Red Bank and attended River Street School and Red Bank High School. Norma began her college education at North Carolina State College in Durham, NC. She completed her studies at Cortez Peters Business School in Washington, DC. She graduated in 1944.

In Washington, Norma met and shortly thereafter married James Richard Todd. Together they embarked on a thirty-five year career and never-ending adventure in the U.S. Foreign Service, which took them all over the world. Some of their stops over the course of these thirty-five years included:

Cairo, Egypt, where Norma helped administer anti-cholera injections and taught hygiene to local townspeople. Norma had ample time to evacuate, but she chose to remain at her husband's side and assist during this epidemic. The Todd's older daughter, Cynthia, was born in Cairo.

Tel Aviv, Israel, Norma helped her husband distribute Social Security checks to retired Americans living in remote places in Israel. The Todd's second daughter, Coralle, was born during their stay in Israel.

Now at 81 years of age, Mrs. Norma Todd is the Director and Coordinator of the Lunch Break Program in Red Bank. She has held this position since 1983. She arrives at the center each morning at seven, stating that she needs a little peaceful time to herself before the hustle and bustle of the day begins.

Norma's colleagues describe her as: a mother, a teacher, a friend, or just a shoulder to cry on to those in the community who find themselves in need. She has a sparkle in her eye, and a bounce in her gait. Norma's life mission has always been to help those in need, both young and old. She has always devoted her time to her family and to public service. She has never measured her success by money but rather by her accomplishments throughout the world.

It is with great satisfaction and appreciation that I ask my colleagues to join with me and

commend the extraordinary contributions of Mrs. Norma Brito Todd.

SUPPORT DEMOCRACY IN BURMA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today news reports reveal that over 300 Karen villagers fled their homes because State Peace and Development Council soldiers, known to the rest of the world as the government military dictatorship, burned their villages to the ground. Once again, villagers in Burma are living homeless in the jungle.

On September 18, 1988, the military forced its rule on the people of Burma, a rule that has been dominated by severe violence and oppression including rape, the enslavement of children, attacks on ethnic minorities, imprisonment and torture of democratic political opposition groups, and the destruction of homes and villages. The people of Burma have struggled to survive under this brutal regime. On this day of tragic remembrance, the United States and the entire international community must come together to support and assist the Karen, Karenni, Chin, Shan and other people of Burma.

The Burmese regime does not limit its attacks to ethnic minorities, but also brutally oppresses religious minorities. The military invades villages, divides families through forced relocation, and uses rape and murder to subjugate the people. The Karen community in southern Burma has been under severe attack by the Burmese military, particularly this year. Earlier this summer, I shared in a floor speech that I had photographic evidence of a massacre in the Karen State in Burma. The regime's troops brutally killed innocent civilians as they attempted to flee to refugee camps in neighboring Thailand. Despite promises to the international community that it will cease such blatant human rights violations, the regime refuses to take action against those responsible for the massacre. As usual, no investigation into the incident has occurred.

The SPDC regime deceives the international community again and again by saying one thing and then doing another. Recently, the SPDC freed democracy leader and 1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and promised to permit free political expression in Burma. Since that promise, however, the regime refuses to open a political dialogue with the National League for Democracy and Burma's ethnic communities.

The international community, on behalf of the people of Burma, should make it clear that the oppressive dictators of Burma will no longer be tolerated—we do not want to remember another anniversary of the human rights violations against Burma's people. Instead, next year on this day, we should be celebrating the return of democracy and freedom to the people of Burma.

I urge our Administration and my colleagues in Congress to act to support democracy in Burma and help provide aid to the suffering

ethnic minorities. In addition, I urge the international community to press Burma's regime to cease the violence and murder perpetrated against the people and allow the legitimately elected leaders of the country to govern.

FOR BURMESE FREEDOM

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, fourteen years ago today the Burmese people rose up and protested, non-violently, against the military regime ruling their country. They marched—students, farmers, monks, academics, journalists and professionals alike—in front of the U.S. Embassy, in Rangoon, to tell the world that they wanted democracy. Our embassy heard their pleas, their shouts for freedom. In a nationwide uprising, that predated that of Tiananmen Square, thousands of brave souls lost their lives, in Rangoon alone. CNN did not record the event—TV coverage then, and today, is not allowed in Burma, unless stage-managed by the regime.

How fortunate the Burmese people are to have a leader, Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who has willingly sacrificed her own freedom for that of her 50 million countrymen and women. Her party, the National League for Democracy, (NLD) won a free and fair election despite her being under house arrest, in 1990. The people of Burma voted for all which we hold sacred. Fourteen years is a long time to wait to honor the election results and the aspirations of the Burmese people.

The Congress and all administrations since that time, have supported the NLD and Burma's democracy movement. But we have done enough. The regime tells us, through their DC-based lobbyist, that they are willing to cooperate with the U.S. on counter narcotic measures. Evidence points to the contrary. Where is Khun Sa, the infamous drug lord? Although he has been under indictment in the Eastern District of New York for Federal drug violations that include conspiracy, importation of, and possession with intent to distribute heroin in the United States, he is believed to be residing in a military safe house in Rangoon, under a cease fire and amnesty agreement with the military junta. He is free; the Burmese people are not. He joins the generals in living without fear; while the Burmese people do not.

Accordingly, on this day fourteen years after the Burmese people gave their lives for democracy, we ask the world and this Congress for support to continue to pressure the regime until the aspirations of the Burmese people are fulfilled. I urge my colleagues not to forget that, in Burma, a parliamentary chamber has not been filled with an electorate.

Aung San Suu Kyi has said: "What we are concerned about is the freedom of political parties and the freedom of all the people of Burma." If we turn our backs on Burma, if we don't speak out, and act, in support of those who chose democracy, we will be undermining all duly elected public officials, including ourselves.

RECOGNITION OF ROXBOROUGH
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL REHABILITATION
UNIT DURING NATIONAL
REHABILITATION WEEK

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of National Rehabilitation Week, as well as congratulating the accomplishments of the Rehabilitation Unit at Roxborough Memorial Hospital.

Each year, thousands of rehabilitation providers and health and human services agencies join together during the third week in September to celebrate the powers of rehabilitation and share the message that through rehabilitation there is hope, achievement, and success. To answer the need to educate people throughout the United States, Allied Services healthcare system first celebrated National Rehabilitation Week in 1976. What began as a small scale local awareness campaign 26 years ago has steadily grown in scope over the years.

The Rehabilitation Unit at Roxborough Memorial Hospital is dedicated to serving the rehabilitative needs of the Roxborough community. Rehabilitative therapy allows many victims of injury and illness to achieve independence and improved quality of life. Individuals with disabilities have found hope, spirit, and dignity through the service of rehabilitation medicine.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Rehabilitation Unit at Roxborough Memorial Hospital for their tireless dedication to help patients work to regain strength, confidence, and daily living skills after a disabling injury or illness.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, our Nation and its seniors are experiencing a crisis regarding Medicare benefits and specifically prescription drugs. This issue is of vital concern to them. Furthermore, in my Congressional District, my constituents consistently raise questions to me about what looms on the horizon as it relates to them obtaining a prescription drug benefit, because the cost of prescription drugs is so high.

At the current time, seniors on fixed incomes are confronted with escalating prices for medication and private companies are offering benefits that are grossly inadequate. Meanwhile, the majority's proposal will force seniors to shop for and buy a private insurance plan.

The truth is, seniors are pawns in the corporate and political game of prescription drugs. They are being forced to choose between buying food or their medication. No matter what choice they make, their health is still imperiled. It is unfair and unconscionable that our seniors are being treated in this manner. They deserve far better treatment.

Democrats support a Medicare prescription drug benefit that covers all seniors under

Medicare, a benefit that would be voluntary and universal. I fully support the Democratic proposal, and I also support the proposals put forward by AARP.

If we look at the facts and put aside the rhetoric, the facts are clear. Soaring prices for prescription drugs are putting medicine out of reach for millions of seniors.

We Democrats support a Medicare prescription drug benefit that covers all seniors. Every senior would have access, regardless of where he or she lives and the amount of their income.

However, the House Republican prescription drug plan is a sham proposal that provides no real guarantee at all. Their plan will not cover all seniors. In fact, the benefit will be so limited that it won't be worthwhile for many middle-income seniors to enroll. Moreover, the Republican plan forces seniors to shop for and buy a private insurance plan, making it a hassle for older Americans who will have to contend with insurance plans that come and go.

Democrats know that this model doesn't work. The model didn't work in 1965, and that's why we created Medicare. Even the insurance companies say it won't work—the Health Insurance Association of America has said that they will not offer drug-only policies. Simply put, the Republican plan is guaranteed to fail.

Let me also emphasize that the Republican prescription drug plan does absolutely nothing to slow prescription drug prices from continuing their upward spiral.

It is time for my majority colleagues to come clean. Now is the time to pass a meaningful prescription drug plan that uses Medicare to make drugs affordable and which provides a universal, voluntary benefit for all seniors. If we closely examine the proposals put forward by the majority, it is abundantly clear what they are doing. They say "Lower the cost of prescription drugs now," but that really only translates to "take credit for minimal discounts that are already available."

The facts are crystal clear, the so-called discounts will be nothing more than minimal discounts from programs that are readily available in the marketplace today. Furthermore, these programs advertise far better savings than what they actually offer.

Another mantra being repeated constantly is "guarantee all senior citizens prescription drug coverage," but the translation is "promise seniors an inadequate drug benefit offered by private insurance companies."

At the end of the day, when seniors have to check their bank balances, there is no getting around the reality that an inadequate drug benefit offered by private insurance companies is really no guarantee whatsoever.

Early reports indicate that the Republican plan has major gaps and their prescription drug plan will leave Medicare beneficiaries 100% financially liable for thousands of dollars in drug costs. At the same time insurers can charge whatever they want and discriminate against the most vulnerable, including those with disabilities.

What we must do as Democrats is improve Medicare by providing more choices and savings, not by shifting costs to seniors and limiting the choice of providers.

My seniors are telling me that they think the Republican proposals will not result in more health care providers or more savings. They express deeply held fears that the end result

will be a negative shift in costs to seniors, and a conversion of Medicare into a voucher program in which seniors would get a fixed government contribution and in turn would be told to choose a health plan they can afford.

For all the talk about strengthening Medicare for the future, seniors around this great nation are concluding that the ultimate goal is to undermine Medicare by forcing seniors into private insurance and HMOs for drug coverage.

Now is the time to provide a Medicare prescription drug benefit. Democrats are ready, willing and able to provide seniors with a benefit they desperately need. Our colleagues on the opposite of the aisle need to roll up their sleeves and work with us. We owe a debt of gratitude to seniors who have helped to make America great and strong. The least we can do is deliver on our commitment to help keep them healthy by providing a prescription drug benefit.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO: JIM AND
HELEN BERNAL**

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the time to honor Jim and Helen Bernal of Fruita, Colorado for the unrelenting service they have given to their community. The Bernal family resided in Colorado long before the state had been admitted into the Union, part of a proud legacy spanning eight generations. For their part, Mr. and Mrs. Bernal have been committed to making the town of Fruita a better place to live. —Married 48 years ago in Antonito, Colorado, Jim and Helen have displayed great teamwork, working together and accomplishing tasks that many would deem impossible. Jim and Helen Bernal have raised eight children, and have 29 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Although they may have an eventful home life on their 600-acre farm just outside of Fruita, the couple remains busy with a variety of different projects.

Jim and Helen Bernal are part of a fourteen member board that is working to finance and build a community center in Fruita, Colorado. Working diligently to utilize any resources that might further their cause, the couple has placed recycling barrels around the community to help raise money for the project. They have also organized and participated in a variety of fundraising events that have raised a total of \$57,000. Jim Bernal is also an avid drummer, and his band performs several times a month for senior citizens in nearby communities. Always ready to lend a helping hand, Helen serves as the coordinator and booking agent for the band.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great privilege that I recognize Jim and Helen Bernal before this body Congress and this nation today. The Bernals have been widely praised throughout the community for their optimism and determination and I am proud to join in that admiration for such an inspirational couple. Thank you, Jim and Helen, and please keep up your good work.

DEVELOPING NEW TREATMENTS FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/ AIDS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues news of an important development in medicine that is taking place in my district—the manufacture of a new generation of HIV therapy. This complex, breakthrough therapy, called Fuzeon, generic name enfuvirtide, is the drug formerly known as “T-20” Fuzeon is a new drug that attacks HIV in a new way, promising new hope for patients who have exhausted other therapies. Fuzeon is the product of groundbreaking medical research and cutting edge engineering and is an example of how the private sector is contributing to dramatic advances in healthcare and specifically in helping to manage the most devastating infectious epidemic in the recorded history of mankind.

In July, Fuzeon clinical trial results were presented at the International AIDS Conference in Barcelona, the world's largest HIV/AIDS meeting. These studies included over a thousand patients with advanced HIV who demonstrated resistance to a majority of currently available HIV treatments and were nearing the end of their treatment options. These study results showed that Fuzeon had a significant impact in reducing HIV viral load and improving immune response in these difficult to treat patients. Fuzeon, once approved by the Food and Drug Administration, could be commercially available as soon as early 2003.

At present, there are 800,000–900,000 people living with HIV in the United States. Innovative HIV therapies, taken in combination “drug cocktails,” have allowed many of these individuals to live relatively healthy, productive lives. However, HIV is a formidable virus that can adapt to become resistant to existing treatments and is doing so. In fact, one of the biggest challenges facing people living with HIV today is an emerging resistance to currently available treatments. Fifty-one percent of AIDS patients are immune to at least two of the three available classes of therapies thereby severely limiting the treatment options available to them. Fourteen percent are resistant to all three classes and are left with no way to control the advancement of their disease. These patients are in desperate need of new options.

That is why Hoffmann-La Roche, the pharmaceutical company that introduced the world's first protease inhibitor and the first HIV viral load test, has partnered with the biotech company Trimeris Inc., a leader in HIV innovation, to develop and manufacture Fuzeon—a new generation of HIV therapy. Fuzeon will help to address the urgent and unmet needs of HIV/AIDS patients who have built up resistance to current therapies. This internationally anticipated and complex drug will be manufactured right here in the United States—in Boulder, Colorado. It requires the creation of one of the most complex drug manufacturing processes ever undertaken because the drug is far more intricate in its structure and development than any existing drug.

Roche and Trimeris are investing considerable resources to bring new therapies to peo-

ple living with HIV/AIDS. The importance of these discoveries and developments cannot be stressed enough. Breakthrough biotechnology advances in the worldwide fight against HIV/AIDS, produce vital life-saving alternatives for patients living with HIV. What these companies have learned from developing state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities for Fuzeon will also improve our nation's ability to develop and manufacture new therapies for other diseases.

The public sector has a role to play as well. I call upon my fellow colleagues to support funding of vital and fiscally prudent public programs that provide access to life-saving treatments such as Fuzeon. The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) provides federal contributions to state run programs designed to provide innovative, life saving HIV drugs to low income, uninsured people living with HIV. I ask my House colleagues to include an increase of \$162 million for ADAP funding in the House Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill for FY 2003. Many states are experiencing budget problems, and demand is outpacing available resources for ADAP programs. From 1996 to 2001, the number of clients served nationally by ADAP programs has grown by 144 percent, with expenditures on drugs increasing by over 300 percent, and funding levels increasing at smaller rates. In my own state of Colorado, the ADAP has provided life saving HIV treatments to over 1,300 low income, uninsured people to date this year. Like other ADAPs, the Colorado program needs to respond to the increasing number of individuals seeking access to these treatments.

With this recommended increase in funding, we offer a real helping hand, send a message that the federal government encourages private investment in groundbreaking research, and meet our fiscal objectives.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. BILLY C. HAWKINS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Billy C. Hawkins upon his inauguration as the Twentieth President of Texas College, in Tyler, Texas, on September 20, 2002. Dr. Hawkins has proven himself as a dynamic and courageous leader, and has already instituted tremendous change at Texas College since he became President on December 1, 2000. Dr. Hawkins has secured accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for Texas College, developed a single parent program, developed an accelerated degree program, and helped to greatly increase enrollment at Texas College. These accomplishments portray the dedication and success of Dr. Hawkins. I work closely with Dr. Hawkins and I am proud to honor him on the occasion of his Investiture Ceremony as the Twentieth President of Texas College.

Dr. Billy C. Hawkins is a native of Kent, Ohio and graduated from Roosevelt High School. He was a great football player in high school and at 21 years of age, he became the youngest head football coach in Michigan history. He enrolled at Ferris State University where

he completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Teacher Education. He then went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in Education Administration from Central Michigan University and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Michigan State University in Education Administration. In preparation for becoming a college president, Dr. Hawkins completed the Harvard Seminar for New Presidents.

Dr. Hawkins' achievements and experiences have well-prepared him for his current position as President of Texas College. He served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs/Professor at Mississippi Valley State University from March 1, 1999 to November 31, 2000, as Vice President for Academic Affairs/Professor at Saint Paul's College in Lawrenceville, Virginia from September 1995 to February 1999, as Acting Dean, Associate Dean, Assistant Dean/Full Professor in the College of Education at Ferris State University from 1985 to August 1995, and as Director of Educational Opportunity Program at the State University of New York at Morrisville College, Morrisville, New York from 1981 to 1985. Dr. Hawkins has authored two books—“Educating All Students (A Pathway to Success)” and “Reaching for the Stars.” He has been featured on national television and at regional and national conferences to discuss our nation's special education system.

Dr. Hawkins is the recipient of numerous honors and awards. In January 1999, he received appointment as a member of the Southside Virginia Business and Education Commission by former Governor James S. Gilmore, III, of Virginia. In August 2002, Dr. Hawkins was nominated by Secretary Ronald Paige of the United States Department of Education to serve on the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Advisory Board to advise Congress regarding program progress for implementing construction financing on HBCU campuses. He also currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Tyler Chamber of Commerce, the Tyler Economic Development Council, the Boys and Girls Club of Smith County, and the United Way. He is the proud father of two children, son Billy Jr. and daughter Marilana.

In closing, I want to share what his good friend Mr. Darrell Green, of the Washington Redskins football team, has this to say about him: “Dr. Billy Hawkins is a true leader in every sense of the word, and most importantly, my lifelong friend.” Mr. Speaker, I proudly honor Dr. Billy C. Hawkins today as he is officially inaugurated as the Twentieth President of Texas College.

HONORING THE SANTA BARBARA FOUNDATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to the Santa Barbara Foundation on the occasion of their 75th anniversary. The Foundation has greatly enriched the Santa Barbara community as a whole and many organizations have greatly benefited from its generosity.

In 1928 Major Max Fleischmann made the initial contribution to the Foundation that has

since enhanced the lives of so many Central Coast residents. Since that first donation, the, Santa Barbara Foundation has become an organization that provides grants and funds to projects within four fields of interest: Education and Personal Development, Health & Human Services, Culture & Recreation and Environment and Community Enhancement. The Foundation additionally promotes programs that expand opportunities for the less advantaged as well as those that will enhance the lives of youth. In fact, over the last 72 years, more than \$60,000,000 has been distributed in the forms of grants and student financial aid.

There are more than 550 similar foundations throughout the nation, and the Santa Barbara Foundation holds the distinction of ranking among the top 50 oldest and largest such organizations. A board of trustees and a staff of 12 make pertinent decisions and run the operation on a day-to-day basis. And of course, the Foundation could never operate as successfully as it does without the help of the over 100 volunteers that dedicate the most precious resource a non-profit could ask for—their time.

Santa Barbara is extremely fortunate to have an organization of this generosity in its midst. I would like to bestow my sincerest congratulations to the Foundation on its 75th anniversary and wish the organization the very best in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. WEBER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to pay tribute to Michael Weber and thank him for his many contributions to healthcare and public policy initiatives in Colorado and throughout the nation. As Mike retires from his position at Rocky Mountain HMO, let the record show that I, along with the people of Colorado, appreciate his leadership of healthcare and managed care in rural areas. His dedication and hard work is greatly respected and I am honored to pay tribute to him today in front of this body of Congress. Mike will long be remembered as an effective leader by all who worked with him in the healthcare industry, and he will continue to stand out as a leader in his home community of Grand Junction, Colorado.

During his time as CEO of Rocky Mountain HMO, Mike turned his company into the leader of rural area managed care, growing the company from a one-county organization serving 3200 members in 1975 to one serving over 128,750 statewide today. He was a five-term president of the Colorado Association of HMOs, served ten years on the Board of Directors of the American Medical Care and Review Association, and was a member of the National Task Force on Medical Management. Perhaps a more telling accomplishment is the respect shown by several governors of Colorado—his numerous panel appointments include the Colorado Cost Containment Commission, the Health Advisory Council, and the Statewide Health Coordinating Council.

His involvement in the community has been outstanding as well. Locally, Mike served on

boards for the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce, Mesa National Bank, Rocky Mountain Health Foundation, and the Mesa County Economic Development Council. Perhaps most importantly, Mike is married to his wife Jeannie, and has four children. As he retires from Rocky Mountain HMO, I look forward to him still playing an important role in his community and the healthcare industry because he is a great asset and brings a lot of talent to the table.

Mr. Speaker it is my privilege to rise today to honor this outstanding citizen before this body of Congress and this nation. Mike Weber has shown great dedication and leadership on local and state healthcare matters on up to nationwide issues. I am glad to extend to him my gratitude for all he has accomplished in his field and wish him all the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO COLORADO CLEAN WATER ACTION AND ITS CANVASSERS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the important work of Colorado Clean Water Action and the outstanding efforts of many of the group's canvassers who work tirelessly to educate the public and improve the environmental quality of life for all Coloradans.

Clean Water Action is a nationally recognized organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of our environment and especially of our nation's water resources. In arid states like Colorado, water is a precious and scarce commodity. That makes the work of groups like Clean Water Action all the more important. Clean Water Action's efforts to enhance water quality not only benefit humans, they also benefit wildlife and promote a host of other environmental and economic values, such as productive agriculture, wetlands protection and recreation.

Here in Colorado, Clean Water Action has been led by Carmi McLean, an effective and passionate leader for the cause of the environment. Over the past three decades, Carmi has been involved in most if not all of the high profile environmental issues facing Colorado and the nation. She has been active in wilderness protection, reducing pollution and holding polluters accountable for their releases, fighting damaging rollbacks of environmental protection laws and programs such as Superfund, and, of course, in all issues related to water quality. Colorado Clean Water Action has also been involved in these and similar issues since 1989.

Recently, Colorado Clean Water Action has taken up the important, cause of reducing the toxic discharge of heavy metals and acids from old, abandoned hardrock mining operations. These mines, which occur in the hundreds of thousands across the west, have caused impacts to a number of watersheds which oftentimes supply drinking water to many western communities. These releases also can have devastating impacts to the aquatic life of many streams and lakes, which further impacts recreation and the ecological

health of the lands affected by these sites. However, because those responsible for these abandoned, polluting mines cannot be found, most of these mines go on polluting. What's worse, because of the costs of cleanup and the risks of future liability exposure, many entities that would be willing to cleanup these mines are discouraged from taking steps to clean them up.

To address this problem, I have introduced legislation—H.R. 4078 "The Abandoned Hardrock Mines Reclamation Act of 2002"—to facilitate the cleanup of these mines by creating an abandoned mine cleanup fund and a special permit program that would encourage more federal, tribal, state, local and community efforts to clean up these languishing pollution sources. Carmi and her staff at Colorado Clean Water Action recognized the significance of this problem and the value that this legislation would bring to addressing it. As a result, she has made this issue and the need to address it a top priority for the efforts of Colorado Clean Water Action, including many hours of hard work by dedicated young people who canvass door-to-door in Colorado communities letting people know about this issue and what can be done to help address it.

I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to Carmi and her canvassers who have been spending the summer and fall of 2002 working on this issue. Specifically, I want to recognize the following people who have been working especially hard at Colorado Clean Water Action on the abandoned mine waste problem: David Scheck, Brian Dunn, Stoney Bergman, Greg Sobczynski, Katie Tegeler, John De Wees, Nik Haynes, Lindsay Bennett, Noel Jensen, Melinda Miller, Whitney Hanson, Whitney Gann, Eric Hale, Ana Cordova, Courtney Bennett, Amy Addison, Dewey Brown, and Fred Kirsch.

Mr. Speaker, the future of our democracy depends on the active involvement of our young people in the important issues facing our nation. I am pleased that these young people have taken a special interest in this issue and hope that they remain active on environmental protection as well as other issues of importance to them. I believe that it is important for us as leaders and elected officials to stop and take notice of the civic involvement of our young people, recognize the importance of it and encourage more such participation. I also want to thank organizations like Clean Water Action and people like Carmi McLean who provide leadership and an opportunity for young people to participate in our democracy. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these young people and Colorado Clean Water Action for their great efforts.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT W. "RUSTY" NORTON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we approach year's end, I often think back to dear friends that we have lost this year. One I especially loved, and miss, is the late Robert W. "Rusty" Norton of Longview, Texas, a beloved and outstanding citizen who passed away last January at the young age of 54. Rusty was a

close friend and someone that I think about often. He was a successful realtor, a caring community leader, a beloved husband, father and grandfather, and a friend of so many.

Rusty was born on November 9, 1947 in Terrell, Texas and had been an active member of the Longview community for almost thirty years. After graduation with a Bachelor of Business degree from East Texas State University, Rusty began working in real estate. He never ceased learning about the industry—evidenced by the fact that he recently was named a Certified Commercial Investment Member by the Commercial Investment Real Estate Institute—the highest certification that a person in the commercial real estate industry may earn.

One of Rusty's most cherished activities was his association with Trinity Episcopal Church, of which he had been a supportive member for 20 years. He was recently asked to become an Assistant Verger, a position of great honor, in addition to serving in a number of other positions within the church, including serving as a member of the Vestry Board and Endowment Board and Mission Funding Coordinator For the Diocese of Texas-Northeast Convocation.

Outside of his Congregation, Rusty had a number of other community activities that made him a cherished community leader. He had been a City Councilman and charter member of Longview 2020. He served on the local boards of the American Cancer Society, the Boys and Girls Club of Gregg County, the Salvation Army and was an active member of the Downtown Rotary Club. In his spare time he also served as an assistant chaplain at the Good Shepherd Medical Center. Rusty's extraordinary community dedication and service will be missed by the City of Longview and by all those with whom he worked so selflessly.

Rusty is survived by a loving family—his wife, Andee; his daughter, Meredith, and her husband, John Lucas of Graham, Texas; his step-daughter, Cissy Wrather of Longview; his step-son, David Wrather and wife, Janet of Houston; five grandchildren, Jack and Robert Lucas, Hunter, Jack, and Abigail Wrather; brothers, Joe Norton of Tyler, Texas, Tom Norton of Terrell and sister, Claire Schilhab of Tyler; as well as several nieces and nephews.

I have always felt close to and have admitted this family, and, in fact, I have felt that I was part of this great family. Rusty's father, the late Tom Norton, took me to my first State Democratic Convention. Since that time I felt close to Tom until his death, and I join all of this great family in mourning Rusty's death, while rejoicing with the memories and the love that Rusty left to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, Rusty was a dear and special friend of mine who could always be depended upon for advice and assistance, and he leaves behind him this wonderful family and many friends in Longview whose lives were enriched by him. As we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of this beloved community leader and outstanding citizen who touched so many lives and made Longview a better place in which to live. We will remember Rusty and the legacy he leaves us.

HONORING SAN LUIS OBISPO POLICE CHIEF JAMES M. GARDINER

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring James M. Gardiner, the San Luis Obispo Police Chief, upon his retirement. This December, Chief Gardiner will retire from his 32-year career in law enforcement.

Chief Gardiner began his career in law enforcement, in 1970 when he joined the Newport Beach Police Department as a patrol officer. There he spent 4 years on various assignments before serving as Sergeant for 5 additional years. He was then promoted to lieutenant where he served for 3 years before becoming Captain in which position he remained for another 6 years. In August of 1987, Chief Gardiner joined the San Luis Obispo Police Department as Chief of Police.

Chief Gardiner has received numerous awards from the Central Coast community, including being named a Special Friend of the San Luis Obispo County Special Olympics on multiple occasions. The United Way named Chief Gardiner Humanitarian of the Year in 1993 and he was the recipient of the Community Service Award from the California Parks and Recreation Society in 1995. In 2000, Chief Gardiner received the National SOI Award of Special Olympics Hero. Chief Gardiner was also inducted into the Law Enforcement Torch Run Hall of Fame in 2001. Chief Gardiner and his wife, Elaine were recognized together as Citizens of the Year in 2001 by the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce.

San Luis Obispo has been more than ably served by this fine man for 15 years. I am proud to congratulate Chief Gardiner on his remarkable record of achievement during his career as a law enforcement officer.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF BURKE CENTRE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the 25th Anniversary of Burke Centre, Virginia on Saturday, September 14th, 2002.

Burke Centre is located in the core of the 11th congressional district of Virginia. This planned, residential community began its development in 1976 and has grown into a thriving community with over 5,800 residences in its five neighborhoods: the Commons, the Landings, the Oaks, the Ponds, and the Woods. These neighborhoods are impressive examples of a successful organized community, with each of the five represented by one trustee, and featuring a pool and community center.

The gem of Burke Centre is the Conservancy, consisting of 1,700 acres, including 350 acres of pristine open space area ideal for a wide range of active and passive recreational activities. Ponds, tennis courts, playing fields,

swimming pools, and other amenities are maintained for the enjoyment of residents.

This planned neighborhood took into consideration the community needs of its residents during its development. An efficient and effective committee system ensures residents' voices are still heard today. Burke Centre has established itself as a community committed to conservancy with its abundance of nature parks and outdoor activities. The Election Board is responsible for maintaining this mission and overseeing the annual Conservancy Board and Cluster Committee elections.

In commemoration of its 25th anniversary, Burke Centre's Fall Festival, planned and organized dually by volunteers and staff, will be the community's chance to celebrate this landmark anniversary. Antique vendors, entertainment, games and arts and crafts will pay tribute to Burke Centre's beginnings.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, with all that Burke Centre has created and offered its residents since its development 25 years ago, we have great reason to celebrate today. Accordingly, I extend my warmest congratulations to a community that has been dedicated to providing the best possible residential and community environment to its citizens.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EILEEN JENSEN-KERCHEVAL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding woman who has achieved great accomplishments throughout her life. Eileen Jensen-Kercheval has worked diligently throughout her community to provide assistance and awareness to a variety of senior citizens issues. Eileen is an active member of numerous organizations, and traveled to Washington D.C. this month from Grand Junction, Colorado to promote awareness for senior citizens. It is a pleasure to applaud Eileen and her exceptional work in her community and its surrounding areas.

Eileen regularly appears on weekly television segments in Grand Junction, Colorado. Her segments are educational and informative to the citizens of Grand Junction, and she provides important information on many senior citizen engagements. Eileen's television career started in 1962 in Springfield, Illinois, where she entertained viewers with innovative and constructive ways in which to spend their leisure time. She was an outstanding role model for the Springfield community and retired to Grand Junction after nineteen years of accomplished airtime.

In recognition of her efforts, Eileen recently accepted the "Experience Works Prime Time Award for Colorado." She accepted the award before friends and family, and modestly recounted her successful career with her charismatic, intuitive personality.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure I bring forth the accomplishments of Eileen Jensen-Kercheval and recognize her before this body of Congress and our nation. Thank you Eileen for being an inspiration in your community; I have full confidence you will excel in any ventures you choose to pursue.

RECOGNITION OF THE NATURAL
RESOURCES LAW CENTER'S 20TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and pay tribute to the Natural Resources Law Center, a legal and policy research organization housed at the University of Colorado's School of Law. The Center is celebrating its 20th anniversary of providing path-breaking, scholarly and practical input and analysis on the use, development and protection of our natural resources and environment.

The Center is widely recognized as one of the region's preeminent sources of research and educational programs on water and public lands issues, assisting managers, policy makers and other westerners committed to sustainable and balanced natural resource laws and practices. This mission has been the central thread in two decades of activity equally notable for its attention to emerging issues as its diligence in addressing long-standing areas of conflict and concern. The Center remains committed to informing and influencing natural resource decisions, recognizing that the quality of life so cherished by westerners is inextricably tied to our treatment of natural resources.

Center projects take a variety of forms. Perhaps best known are the Center's events, particularly the western water conferences held each June. These conferences consistently focus the nation's best minds on a variety of pressing and timely concerns, including endangered species management, groundwater depletion and pollution, operation of dams, water reallocation, transboundary disputes, and water conservation. Water resources have also been a prominent focus of Center publications, including pioneering work on instream flows, water markets, legal and administrative reform, and watershed partnerships.

Over time, a public lands program addressing issues as diverse as forest planning, wilderness preservation, and federal/state conflicts has balanced this traditional focus on water issues. The result is an organization intimately familiar with the many interconnections and dependencies found in natural resource systems and possessing expertise not limited to the physical environment, but equally relevant to the institutional landscape of laws, policies, administrative arrangements, and management practices.

By focusing on institutional arrangements, rather than merely laws and legal precedents, Center projects define natural resource problems and solutions broadly, revealing opportunities for innovation that would otherwise be buried by narrow thinking and the perception of hopeless gridlock. Center projects consistently show the natural resource problems of the West to be formidable, but nonetheless solvable. It is the immense value of this contribution, more so than the mere passage of twenty years, that they and I are celebrating today.

Looking forward, the natural resources of the West face several new challenges. Most central is the continued population growth that, over the life of the Center, has already made

the West the most rapidly growing region of the country. With roughly 1 million new westerners expected every year over the next two decades, the stress on limited water resources is just one of several concerns. Other emerging issues derive from the region's renewed emphasis on energy production, the explosive growth in outdoor recreation pressures, the twin concerns of ongoing drought and long-term climate change, and wildfires. As is its tradition, the Center is already active on each of these issues, having produced reports, hosted conferences, and most importantly, having already informed and influenced decision makers struggling to keep up with the pace of change.

The strength of the organization continues to be its staff, advisory board, and its impressive international network of collaborators, funders, and friends. The Center has been particularly blessed by a string of talented directors—Larry MacDonnell, Betsy Rieke, Gary Bryner, and currently, Jim Martin—and by the longstanding participation of prominent University of Colorado scholars including David Getches, Charles Wilkinson, and Jim Corbridge. Equally essential has been the research and writings of the professional staff, particularly Michael Gheleta, Doug Kenney, Ann Morgan, Kathryn Mutz, Teresa Rice, and Sarah (Bates) Van de Wetering, and the contributions of visiting fellows.

Supported by a small but talented cast of administrative support personnel and by an ever-changing assemblage of law students, the Center has been able to leverage its modest staff and budget into a powerful voice showing the way to environmental, economic and social sustainability through the improved management of natural resources. This is an important and honorable service worthy of our recognition and gratitude.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Natural Resources Law Center for its twenty years of accomplishments and contributions to issues throughout the West, and to welcoming its continued contributions for many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND
FRED COBETT

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Reverend Fred Cobett, Children's Minister to Calvary Assembly of God in Dunwoody, Georgia, for taking on an unusual role to teach children how to help other children, while raising money for mission work.

At the request of the children he works with, Pastor Cobett agreed to spend seven entire days on the ledge of a billboard forty feet above interstate 285 in Atlanta for a fundraiser called Up in the Air for Kids. This event is part of the Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade, a non-profit organization founded by the Assemblies of God Church that exists to reach the children of the world by creating a heart of compassion in the children they lead. The Up in the Air for Kids project is geared specifically toward raising community awareness of the needs of children around the world who are living in poverty. Nine other states nationwide

are also participating in this benefit and hope to reach a cumulative goal of \$1 million. Pastor Cobett's goal for Georgia is to raise \$100,000 that will be distributed among four separate charities including Convoy of Hope, Latin America Child Care, Africa's Children, and Asia's Little Ones.

As the son of a minister, I have a special affinity for Pastor Cobett and his ministry. It's a high calling, and I commend him for dedicating his life to teaching children the principles of charity, generosity, and goodwill in this creative manner.

HONORING THE DEDICATED LIFE
AND WORK OF DR. DAVID KRUGER

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. David Kruger, an outstanding citizen of Alexandria, Virginia, who, for over half a century, has served his community and humanity.

His downtown Alexandria optometry office is a local landmark patronized by a wide clientele. In fact, Dr. Kruger was among the first healthcare professionals to open his office to clients of every economic or social status and ethnicity. He is universally recognized as a leader for nearly every community cause and is honored by a caricature in an Alexandria restaurant as a leading citizen.

Active in a variety of civic causes in Alexandria, he is especially noted for his support of and leadership roles in such community groups as the Red Cross, Boy Scouts, United Givers Fund, Kiwanis (as President in 1960), and the Salvation Army. Similarly, he has served many other community groups with distinction. Among them are the Alexandria Board of Health as Secretary, the Alexandria Hospital, the Community Welfare Council, Tuberculosis Association, Boys Club, and Family Services.

As a man who embraces all religious traditions, he was one of the founders of a group called Men of all Faiths, which for many years has held well-attended lunchtime meetings where civic leaders shared fellowship and heard presentations by pastors, rabbis, and other religious leaders in Alexandria. In his own religious tradition, Dr. Kruger served as Vice President of Temple Beth El in Alexandria for nine years and was active in the Conference of Christians and Jews.

Caring for children and students is a hallmark of Dr. Kruger's life. Working through the RiteCare Program of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, S.J., U.S.A., Dr. Kruger has led the development of a network of six clinics in Virginia. These facilities evaluated or treated 1,246 children in the last period, 1999–2000, of official record. Without his leadership of this program, these children would almost certainly have gone untreated. Most recently, Dr. Kruger spearheaded the PACES Mobil clinic, a satellite service of the Scottish Rite clinic at Radford University. He has also been instrumental in establishing scholarships to train Speech Language Pathologists and related clinical professionals at James Madison University in Harrisonburg and Old Dominion University in Norfolk. A large majority of the graduates of these programs remain in Virginia

and provide clinical services to children throughout the state.

Community service is also a strong aspect of David Kruger's membership in the Grand Lodge of Virginia, A.F. & A.M., where he has been a member of Norfolk Lodge No. 1 for over 50 years and of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Valley of Alexandria, since 1946. In 1991, the Grand Lodge of Virginia awarded Dr. Kruger one of its highest honors, the John Blair Medal for Distinguished Service. The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, S.J., USA also honored David Kruger for his many services to community, state, and nation. He was invested a Knight Commander Court of Honour in 1953 and Inspector General Honorary 1963. After serving as President of the Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia in 1975, Dr. Kruger became the Sovereign Grand Inspector General of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in Virginia in 1985 (13,343 members in 2002). In 1989, he became Grand Secretary General of the Supreme Council, 33[deg], S.J., USA (369,474 members in 2002 in 35 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico). In this influential role, he has been central in guiding the development of 161 clinics, centers, and programs throughout the United States. During each year of the two-year period ending December 31, 2000, a total of 57,413 children with language and learning differences received evaluation or therapy. Left untreated, these children would have been permanently handicapped. Dr. Kruger's service has even gone beyond the United States to Canada where he is an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council of Canada and the Supreme Council of the International Order of DeMolay, a Masonic group for young men.

At age 80 as he concludes, due to statutory limitation, his service in the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, other awards and honors still accumulate to recognize David Kruger's continuing role in bettering the lives of many thousands of children and fellow citizens. David Kruger will never retire from these roles. Given his long record and deep sense of civic, religious, and philanthropic involvement, every American, Mr. Chairman, will continue to be enriched by the life and service of this notable Virginian and American.

TRIBUTE TO THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE AND THE NEW ZEALAND ROYAL AIR FORCE

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of individuals who did a great service to our nation. These men are fighter pilots from the Royal Australian Air Force and the New Zealand Royal Air Force who were assigned to United States combat units and served as Forward Air Controllers during the Vietnam War. I would like to honor the following individuals:

Royal Australian Air Force: Wg. Cdr. Col Ackland, Flt. Lt. Ray Butler, Fg. Off. Peter Condon, Flt. Lt. Garry Cooper, Flg. Off. Mac Cottrell, Wg. Cdr. Vance Drummond, Flg. Off. Huck Ennis, Flt. Lt. Brian Fooks, Flt. Lt. Tony Ford, Flg. Off. Frank Fry, Flt. Lt. Dick Gregory,

Flt. Lt. Jack Hayden, Flg. Off. Chris Hudnott, Flg. Off. Dick Kelloway, Flt. Lt. Chris Langton, Wg. Cdr. Peter Larard, Flg. Off. Chris Mirow, Flt. Lt. Ken Mitchell, Flg. Off. Bruce Mouatt, Sqn. Ldr. Graham Neil, Sqn. Ldr. Dave Owens, Wg. Cdr. Tony Powell, Sqn. Ldr. Rex Ramsay, Flt. Lt. Doug Riding, Flg. Off. Dave Robson, Flg. Off. Barry Schultz, Flt. Lt. Bruce Searle, Flt. Lt. Ken Semmier, Flt. Lt. Arthur Sibthorpe, Flt. Lt. Ron Slater, Flt. Lt. Peter Smith, Wg. Cdr. Barry Thomas, Flt. Lt. Gavin Thoms, Sqn. Ldr. Nobby Williams, Flt. Lt. Roger Wilson, Flt. Lt. Bruce Wood.

New Zealand Royal Air Force: Flt. Lt. Murray Abel, Flg. Off. Mike Callanan, Flt. Lt. J.M. Denton, Flg. Off. B.W. Donnelly, Flt. Lt. Ross Ewing, Flt. Lt. Graeme Goldsmith, Wg. Cdr. R.F. Lawry, Flt. Lt. Bryan Lockie, Fg. Off. Darryl McEvedy, Flt. Lt. Dick Metcalfe, Sqn. Ldr. John Scrimshaw, Flt. Lt. G.R. Thompson, Wg. Cdr. Wallingford, Flt. Lt. Peter Waller.

I would also like to recognize Lt. Col. Eugene Rossel and, Flt. Lt. Garry Copper for actively pursuing decorations for these men who served our country in a time of need.

HONORING THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE OF JASON JACKSON-HAMPTON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Jason Jackson-Hampton, a remarkable young man who gave his life on September 5, 2002, while serving with the Almarville, Tennessee, Volunteer Fire Department. He was just 17 years old. Jason touched the hearts of his fellow firefighters when he joined the department as an Explorer. Chief Greg Capps recalled that his young volunteer's positive attitude and ready smile were an inspiration to all who knew him.

Jason graduated from Smyrna High School last May. Through his dedication, hard work and natural leadership abilities, he attained the rank of second lieutenant in the school's ROTC Program and planned to join the U.S. Army.

He loved McDonald's double cheeseburgers and fries, perks he enjoyed at the fast-food restaurant where he worked.

Firefighters from every municipal and volunteer fire department in Rutherford County, Nashville, Watertown, Fairview and Brentwood attended the memorial service. During the funeral procession, children and adults saluted as his casket, carried atop a fire engine, passed by.

During his inaugural speech, President John F. Kennedy inspired Americans to, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Jason Jackson Hampton's life was a portrait of service and dedication to his family, friends, co-workers and Nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO: DEPUTY JOE SCOTT AND DEPUTY DAVID HARRISON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to take this opportunity to honor Deputies Joe Scott and David Harrison of Montrose County Sheriff's Office for a selfless act of courage they displayed on June 13, 2002. Deputy Scott and Deputy Harrison have just recently received the prestigious "Life Saving" medal on August 9, 2002 in recognition of their bravery and conduct in a time of crisis.

On June 13, 2002, Deputy Scott and Deputy Harrison saved the life of a suicidal woman who was attempting to drown herself in the rapids of Spring Creek near a culvert that runs under Spring Creek Boulevard in Montrose, Colorado. Without any regard for their own personal safety, Deputy Scott and Deputy Harrison jumped into the water and pulled the woman to safety. The two officers maintained their composure during a time of adversity and conducted themselves in a fashion that has brought honor to themselves, to their profession, and to the entire community of Montrose County.

Only last week, citizens throughout the country will recognize the horrible tragedy that occurred just one year ago on September 11, 2001. We recognized the men and women who died in the attacks, and those who gave their lives to save others. While the tragedy of September 11 deserves our full attention and reflection, I would also like to take the time to recognize all individuals throughout the country, who like Deputy Scott and Deputy Harrison, have devoted their lives to protect and serve their fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Deputy Joe Scott and Deputy David Harrison of the Montrose County Sheriff's Office before this body of Congress and this nation as outstanding deputies with impeccable character. The citizen's of Montrose County, CO and Americans throughout the nation should be honored to have officers like Deputy Joe Scott and Deputy David Harrison who faithfully serve their communities and their country every day.

IN RECOGNITION OF LARRY J. BURKS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a good friend and an outstanding citizen of Tyler, Texas—Larry J. Burks—who recently was honored by the Garden Club of America as the recipient of its prestigious award, the Jane Righter Rose Medal. A second generation rose grower/processor, Larry is known throughout the rose industry for his dedication to rose advocacy at the local, state and national levels. This medal is awarded for outstanding achievement in rose culture through the propagation of new

roses, development of community rose gardens of educational value, exhibitions by amateur gardeners, or unusual rose collections of special merit.

This medal could not have been awarded to a more deserving person in the rose industry. Larry is a Board Member and the only two-term president of All America Rose Selections, Inc., and a Board Member of the Fund for the United States Botanic Garden. His efforts in the 1980s resulted in the rose's designation as the National Floral Emblem of the United States, and he was instrumental in the establishment of a National Rose Garden. Groundbreaking for this two-acre garden adjacent to the United States Botanic Garden took place in 2001. His leadership also was evident in raising the funds to remodel and reopen the National Botanical Garden on the National Mall.

Larry serves as vice president of Certified Roses, Inc., of Tyler. This employee-owned corporation is the second largest processor of roses in North America, annually providing up to five and one-half million rose bushes of all varieties. His company is a constant force in producing new rose hybrids and new market development, and he assists both domestic and international hybridizers in plant evaluation and the naming and marketing of new roses. In recognition of his achievements, he has received several All America Rose Selections awards.

Larry has been an active member of the American Rose Society and Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, and he is past president of the Texas Rose Research Foundation. He is also active in the Texas Rose Festival Association in Tyler, the Tyler Rose Museum, Order of the Rose and Texas Rose Society.

With 2002 declared by Congress as the Year of the Rose, Larry will help carry forward this theme, and I can think of no one more devoted to this cause nor more deserving of our recognition and appreciation. Larry has helped raise our national awareness of the rose as an important symbol to our country. His work has benefitted our Nation's Capital, the State of Texas, and his hometown of Tyler. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of the accomplishments of my dear friend, and I know that my colleagues join me today in congratulating him on this award—and expressing our Nation's gratitude for the work Larry Burks has done to promote this beautiful National flower and to encourage civic involvement in this worthy cause.

MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD F.
GILLIS

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sadness, and that of the entire Robins Air Force Base community in Middle Georgia, over the passing of my good friend, retired Major General Richard F. (Dick) Gillis.

General Gillis commanded the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center at a critical time in our country's history and that of Robins, and he carried out that mission as he did all his assignments: with outstanding patriotism, competence, and leadership. Uniquely among

commanders, he served this center in three separate positions: as the director of maintenance, as the ALC vice commander, and as ALC commander.

The current ALC commander, Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, said it exceptionally well: "General Dick Gillis was a courageous leader during a period of great change in our Air Force. His foresight and wisdom made this a better place to live and work. We'll all miss him."

During his command General Gillis made Robins a less likely candidate for base closure by bringing in the Joint STARS mission; by working hard to assure future workloads; by preventing a reduction in force when other ALCs were losing work force; by working on aerospace industry expansion and educational enhancement in the Middle Georgia area. Gen. Gillis led the center very ably during the critical times of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and during the Persian Gulf War.

General Gillis was a command pilot with more than 5,000 hours. While assigned to Tan Son Nhut Air Base, South Vietnam, General Gillis flew 100 combat missions in RF-101A/C aircraft. Over his 38 year Air Force career, General Gillis' military awards and decorations included the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with "V" device and oak leaf cluster, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with oak leaf cluster, Combat Readiness Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with five service stars, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with eight oak leaf clusters, Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Mr. Speaker, General Gillis was a great commander of Robins, a great American, and he will be missed so very much. It is most appropriate that his burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery on October 15. Our country has lost a strong leader, and I am proud to have known him and worked with him.

HONORING SAN LUIS OBISPO FIRE
CHIEF ROBERT F. NEUMANN

HON. LOIS CAPPS
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring my constituent, Fire Chief Robert "Bob" F. Neumann for his significant contributions to our Central Coast community. This past May, Chief Neumann retired from the San Luis Obispo City Fire Department.

Chief Neumann entered the field of fire fighting in 1968 as a firefighter, and served our community as a Fire Inspector, Fire Engineer, Fire Dispatcher, Fire Captain, Fire Battalion Chief and Fire Marshal and became Fire Chief in 1991. Chief Neumann obtained degrees in Fire Science and Soil Science at Cuesta Community College and California Polytechnic State University, both of which are located in the 22nd congressional district.

In 1985, Chief Neumann served as the City's Operation Section Chief on the 50,000 acre, Las Pilitas Fire that threatened the City of San Luis Obispo. For the 48 hours that it took to contain this fire Chief Neumann supervised 20 Type-I and 2 Strike Teams. A series of storms combined with a loss of water-shed caused by the Highway 41 Fire in 1994, resulted in extensive flooding in the downtown area of San Luis Obispo in February of 1995. Throughout the 48 hours when the floods ran through the City, Bob served as Fire Incident Commander and helped to avert disaster. Significant moments in Bob's career, during which he displayed exemplary service were also seen in the Highway 58 fire in August of 1996. During this natural catastrophe Bob essentially served as Deputy Branch Director of the organized command structure.

The City of San Luis Obispo has been most fortunate to have been served by Chief Neumann for 27 years. I am proud to congratulate Bob on his remarkable record of achievement during his 34-year career.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
DAVE HAMIL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize the Honorable Dave Hamil of Sterling, Colorado, who passed away on July 27, 2002. Dave Hamil was an exceptional man who spent his life serving his community and his nation.

Dave Hamil's story is a great American story. As a child, Dave attended a one-room school on Colorado's Eastern Plains. In 1925, he graduated from Logan County Industrial Arts High School as the Student Body President.

After graduating with honors from Hastings College in 1930, Dave returned to Logan County, where he started a farming and ranching business. In 1933, he married Genevieve Robinson. Dave and Genevieve were married 64 years. The couple had three children, Jo Ann, Don and Jack.

In 1938, the same year he was first elected to the Colorado House of Representatives, Mr. Hamil helped organize the Sterling section of the Highline Electric Cooperative. This brought electricity to the farms and ranches of Logan County for the very first time.

During his tenure in the legislature, Mr. Hamil served as Speaker of the Colorado House for five years, from 1951 to 1956. Among his accomplishments were locating the Air Force Academy near Colorado Springs and extending Interstate 70 west through the Eisenhower Tunnel and into Utah.

In 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower appointed Hamil as administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). He was so talented in that capacity, when Richard Nixon was elected president, he asked Dave to return to the post. Mr. Hamil continued to serve as the REA administrator during the Ford and Carter administrations.

Between the Eisenhower and Nixon administrations, Dave was appointed by Colorado Governor John Love to serve as Director of Institutions for the state. There he used his exceptional management skills to create one of the best mental health systems in the nation.

Although his successful career often took him away from his Colorado home, when he retired in 1979, Dave Hamil returned to Sterling. Over the years, he has served on the boards of a host of community organizations, including the Atwood School District Board, the Elks Lodge, the Masonic Lodge, the Sterling United Way, and the Logan County Chamber of Commerce. Dave also served as president of the Logan County Historical Society, where he helped with the Johnson addition to the Overland Trail Museum. That same museum now includes a building named in Dave Hamil's honor.

A citizen of Colorado's Fourth Congressional District, Dave Hamil was truly a great American. It is with sadness that I inform the House of the loss of such an exceptional American. I ask the House to join me in extending our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Mr. Dave Hamil.

HONORING JOYCE KELLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE JEWISH ASSOCIATION FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Joyce Keller, Executive Director of the Jewish Association for Residential Care located in Farmington Hills, Michigan in my Congressional District. She recently received the 2002 Spirit of Service Honor Award from the Michigan Assisted Living Association for her outstanding dedication and commitment to community-based services.

When Joyce Keller became executive director of JARC at age 26, the organization had one home, three employees, and served seven individuals with developmental disabilities. Their annual budget was \$40,000. Today, JARC is an \$8 million agency that serves over 150 adults in a variety of residential settings, provides support services to over 300 families with a disabled child or family member still living at home, and employs over 200 staff members. In her 25th year as executive director, Ms. Keller continues to oversee and ensure the highest quality of service, as well as the raising of nearly \$2 million annually in private contributions and a \$13 million endowment fund.

Ms. Keller has assumed extensive and substantial leadership roles, serving on the President's Committee on Mental Retardation and the Governor's Community Health Advisory Council in Michigan. In addition to her recent award from the Michigan Assisted Living Association, Ms. Keller has been honored with several distinguished awards over the course of her career, including being named Michigander of the Year by the Detroit News.

Mr. Speaker, with Joyce's tenacity, dynamism and creativity, JARC has become one of the largest and well-respected organizations for residential care in the country. She is passionate about honoring the dignity of the people JARC serves and enabling them to live rich and purposeful lives. Joyce Keller is a relentless advocate for the right of every individual to be valued and respected in our society and I congratulate her on the occasion of

receiving the 2002 Spirit of Service Honor Award. She is truly a worthy recipient.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RUDOLPH CRESPIN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Rudolph Crespin of Mack, Colorado. Rudolph dedicated his life to working the land and fought to defend the freedoms of this nation, and it is with honor I stand today to recognize Rudolph for his great service to our nation and our communities.

Rudolph was born in Las Vegas, New Mexico on December 16, 1919 to Rafael and Paulina (Quesnil) Crespin. He grew up in the nearby Antlers Rifle area and married Frances Romero. In World War II, Rudolph served in the US Army overseas. His service to this nation is commendable and its value immeasurable. It is all too easy to take for granted the freedoms that he helped secure through his service; but we cannot allow ourselves to forget the important sacrifices of men and women like Rudolph Crespin.

After the war, Rudolph moved to the Western Slope of Colorado where he could enjoy his lifelong interests in fishing and hunting. He spent the next 40 years farming in the Rifle and Loma areas, where good sense and industry are still the backbones of the economy. He also became a member of other communities and resided in the Grand Valley and Mack. His legacy includes his four sons; Sam, Rudy, Santos, and David Crespin; as well as nine grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rudolph Crespin's life and memory before this body of Congress and this nation. His courage to serve our country, even the world, in a terrible global conflict showed his mettle, as did his commitment to the values and principles of agriculture and the communities he served. As his family and friends mourn his life, they can take comfort that the impact of his contributions to his nation will not be forgotten. Rudolph's lifetime of contributions to the communities of Colorado and this nation deserves our praise and I am proud to honor him today.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BILL FEDDERSEN

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Dr. Bill Feddersen, President of Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, California.

Dr. Feddersen began his teaching career in Florida after receiving his bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois. He went on to complete his master's and doctoral degrees in higher education at Columbia University where he was a Kellogg Community College Leadership Fellow.

At age 32, after serving in administrative positions at Bucks County Community College

(PA) and Iowa Western Community College, Dr. Feddersen became one of the youngest college presidents in the country when he assumed the presidency of what is now the Pennsylvania College of Technology. For the past twenty-one years he has been a California community college president, first at Napa Valley College and since 1991, at Mt. San Antonio College.

Dr. Feddersen has served in a variety of state and leadership positions, including president of the California Community CEO Organization, and a member of the board of Directors of the Community College League of California and the Association of California Community College Administrators. Nationally, he is an officer of the Continuous Quality Improvement Network and serves on North Central Association's Academic Quality Improvement Project Advisory Council.

Thank you Dr. Feddersen for all of your hard work and dedication to advance education in our country. Your efforts will benefit the lives of others both now and for years to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LUCY HALL

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Lucy Hall, founder of the Mary Hall Freedom House in Atlanta. Lucy was recently selected as one of ten people from across the country to receive the nation's most prestigious award for community health leadership from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Her award includes a grant of \$120,000 to continue her community efforts.

Lucy founded the Mary Hall Freedom House in memory of her mother, who she lost to alcoholism at the age of six. Freedom House is a residential recovery program to help addicted mothers break the pattern of substance abuse. The program provides women with intensive chemical dependency treatment and vocational training.

She launched the Freedom House in 1996 while working as a housekeeper and volunteering as a counselor in Atlanta. Lucy used \$5,000 in seed money from her employer to get the effort started. From this modest beginning, the program has grown to serve 250 women a year, many of whom are referred from the court system and homeless shelters.

The program, which started out as six beds in a three-bedroom apartment, now has 70 beds in 26 apartments—and Freedom House now has a staff of over 30 people.

Lucy realized early on that many addicted women with small children had no access to residential treatment because most recovery programs did not admit children. So, she made Freedom House the only residential recovery program in Atlanta for women with children. Now, the children take part in prevention lessons to teach them how to avoid becoming substance abusers themselves. She also recently opened the Heavenly Angels' Day Care Center to provide care for children while their mothers attend treatment and training programs.

Mr. Speaker, by creating the Mary Hall Freedom House, Lucy Hall has demonstrated

tremendous leadership and determination to help the less fortunate in her Atlanta community. I am honored to share a little about her work with my colleagues today and urge them to join me in congratulating her for winning this distinguished award.

As her nominator said, "Lucy took on this challenge with nothing but an idea and a burning desire to help others. Unlike others, she found a way to turn this idea into reality."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, on September 17, 2002, I was in my Congressional District in Washington and consequently I missed three votes. For the record, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 388, "yea" on rollcall vote 389 and "yea" on rollcall vote 390.

THE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN SUDAN

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, Saturday night, college students from around the country will be spending all night at the Lincoln Memorial. They will be praying for the people of Sudan, and reminding us all of the human tragedy that is occurring there, and that we must do something about it. They will march to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in the morning, reminding us that we must never again let happen the kind of evil, the genocide perpetrated by the Nazis. And so, we must do something about Sudan.

The Sudanese government, the National Islamic Front, is killing its own people in many horrible ways in its attempt to assert total control over their lives, to impose its version of Islamic law on the Christians and animists of southern Sudan. Government forces drop homemade bombs on villages and crops; they attack people in line for food aid with helicopter gunships; and they bum villages and crops to the ground. A particularly horrible weapon the government uses is hunger—it intentionally denies food to hundreds of thousands of people, to force them to starve or become refugees.

According to the United Nations World Food Program, the Sudanese government intentionally put as many as 1.7 million people at risk this spring by denying them food and medical relief. The government agreed in 1989, along with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (the rebel group) and the United Nations to allow relief through Operation Lifeline Sudan. Shortly after this agreement, however, there was a coup and the current strongmen came to power. They immediately began to manipulate the relief system to prevent relief from coming in. Operation Lifeline Sudan flights are not always allowed in, and the government refuses to protect non-Operation Lifeline Sudan flights. In short, the government is

trying nearly everything short of outright banning all relief to keep the people of the south starving.

This is nothing less than genocide. The government is trying to kill or drive out hundreds of thousands of people because they are not Arabic Muslims. The government wants to impose its version of Islamic law over these people, who refuse to follow, and it wants free access to the oil fields that lie under these people's homes. So, it tries to starve them.

We in America cannot tolerate this any longer. We have stood by too long while the people of southern Sudan suffer at the hands of the government. We must act. We must listen to the call of the college students at the Lincoln Memorial Saturday night and the Holocaust Museum Sunday morning. We must stand firm with Sudan.

HONORING THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th year of ministry of the Stones River Baptist Church of Smyrna, Tennessee. The congregation will celebrate the milestone on October 7, 2002.

The need for a new Baptist Church to serve the military families stationed at the former Seward Air Force Base in Smyrna, Tennessee, was discussed in May 1952. The first worship service conducted by the Stones River Baptist Church was held on July 30, 1952. And the first worship conducted in the church's permanent building was held on October 26, 1952.

The church has served its community and congregation well for half a century, a period during which our nation experienced much change and innovation. Through those many years, though, Stones River Baptist Church never faltered in its commitment to bring the Lord's word to the people.

Smyrna is a much stronger community because of the work of the church and its congregation. I congratulate the congregation's perseverance and am sure the church will grow even stronger during its next 50 years of service.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SENATE PASSAGE OF THE PENSION SECURITY ACT (HR 3762)

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, since December, several of our country's most noted corporations, many widely regarded as the most innovative, fastest growing, strongest, and best managed companies, have collapsed due to gross irresponsibility and financial mismanagement. Accordingly, shareholders in these companies as well as tens of thousands of employees who held their retirement accounts in these companies have lost literally billions of dollars.

These shareholders and employees have lost everything. The plans made for retirement? Vanished. Their hopes and dreams for the future? Gone. Money set aside to pay for sending their children to college? Disappeared. All because of the improper and fraudulent actions of a handful of corporate executives who took advantage of the system.

In April, the Republican leadership of the House brought to the floor legislation to protect the pensions of employees from corporate wrongdoing. This legislation, the Pension Security Act, HR 3762, provides new protections and options to help workers enhance and preserve their savings while restoring employee confidence in our country's pension system.

That crucial legislation passed this body with a bipartisan vote of 255–163. Since that time, however, the Senate has not taken action on this bill. Pension security is a must past issue for this Congress. Employee confidence in their pensions is deteriorating. Will we allow yet another corporate scandal to hurt even more families throughout this country before getting a bill to the President's desk?

The Pension Security Act will reform outdated federal pension laws. The bill will prevent company insiders from selling their own stock during blackouts while employees are left to fend for themselves. It will require employers to offer workers high quality investment advice so they can make well-informed decisions on how to invest their hard-earned money. It gives workers freedom to diversify their portfolios and seek alternative investment options.

The President is ready to sign this bill. The House has not turned its back on American workers. The House has taken action! We passed the Pension Security Act five months ago! But, the Senate has not acted on pension reform legislation, and American workers are worried about their retirement.

Mr. Speaker, a few bad apples in the corporate hierarchy have drained the retirement savings of tens of thousands of workers, and it's time to act! Today, I am introducing a resolution demanding action on the Pension Security Act. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. It's time to stop playing politics with the savings of hard working Americans.

STATEMENT ON ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS ON AMERICA

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, one year ago, cowardly terrorists carried out a brutal and horrific attack on America. We watched our televisions that Tuesday morning in shocked disbelief to see our landmarks burning, knowing that it meant thousands of our countrymen and women had perished in the flames and smoke.

For many, that day was a nightmare unlike any other. As we commemorate the one-year anniversary of those attacks, I am pleased to say that a dark nightmare has given way to the dawning of a new day in America.

We have taken the battle to our enemies, ferreting them out of caves and crevices. We have broken the backs of an organized, well-funded, committed terrorist network, and our

brave troops continue that effort. We have renewed pride in what it means to be an American.

As we pause to remember the loss of our loved ones, friends, neighbors, and family members, let us resolve to never let their memory fade from our consciousness. On anniversaries such as this, it can be very difficult for the family of those who perished to see the hope we share. Our hearts and prayers are united with them. We profoundly share in their grief.

But, God is good to America. We will heal and rebuild. And, because to do otherwise would be to grant the terrorists the victory they seek, we will continue to live our lives as the guardians of liberty and freedom in the world. May God lay his guiding hand upon the leadership of this nation and its people.

“WE HAVE NO ORDERS TO SAVE YOU”

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the organization Human Rights Watch has issued a report on the violence earlier this year in Gujarat, India, entitled “We Have No Orders To Save You.” About 5,000 Muslims were killed in these riots, according to the newspaper “The Hindu.” News reports quoted a police official as saying that he was ordered not to intervene to stop the violence and save lives. Another published report said that the government of India preplanned these riots. The report from Human Rights Watch confirms this.

The riot was allegedly a response to the attack on a trainload of Hindus in Godhra. However, in the report, Human Rights Watch writes, “Human Rights Watch’s findings, and those of numerous Indian human rights and civil liberties organizations, and most of the Indian press indicate that the attacks on Muslims throughout the state were planned, well in advance of the Godhra incident, and organized with extensive police participation and in close cooperation with officials of the Bharatiya Janata party (Indian Peoples Party, BJP) state government.” The BJP, which is the political arm of the pro-Fascist Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), also controls the central government in Delhi.

“The attacks on Muslims are part of a concerted campaign of Hindu nationalist organizations to promote and exploit communal tensions to further the BJP’s rule,” Human Rights Watch wrote, calling it “a movement that is supported at the local level by militant groups that operate with impunity and under the patronage of the state.”

This report makes it clear that the Indian government supports terrorist groups that are murdering minorities all over India. India Today, India’s largest newsmagazine, reported that the Indian government created the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which the U.S. government has labeled a “terrorist organization.” It has supported cross-border terrorism in Sindh, a province of Pakistan, according to the Washington Times. The book “Soft Target” shows that India shot down its own airliner to blame the Sikhs. It paid out over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers

for killing Sikhs. According to the “Hitavada” newspaper, India paid the late governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, \$1.5 billion to foment terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir.

Unfortunately, this violence is all too reminiscent of previous incidents that took place before the BJP took power. In 1997, police gunfire broke up a Christian religious festival. And the violence in Gujarat was strangely reminiscent of the 1984 massacre of Sikhs in Delhi which cost 20,000 Sikhs their lives. It seems that in India, no matter who is in power, it is not safe to be a minority.

Mr. Speaker, we must act. America can’t just sit and watch this terrorism and repression unfold. India has already been put on the watch list of countries that violate religious freedom. We must cut off aid and trade with India until human rights are enjoyed by all, and we must support self-determination for all peoples and nations in South Asia. Then perhaps there will no longer be need for reports like the one recently issued by Human Rights Watch. Instead, everyone in the subcontinent will be able to have real democracy, freedom, stability, prosperity, and peace.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LAYTON MUNSON

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Layton Munson of Sedgwick, Colorado. Recently, the United States Department of Commerce presented Mr. Munson with the Ben Franklin Award for 55 years as a volunteer for the National Weather Service. Since 1947, Layton has collected a daily weather and climate reading, an invaluable service to his fellow farmers and ranchers on Colorado’s Eastern Plains.

Layton Munson and volunteers like him are the backbone of our nation. Each day, Mr. Munson selflessly serves his community, and at 85 years of age, he looks forward to the opportunity to continue his volunteer work in the years to come.

A citizen of Colorado’s Fourth Congressional District, Layton Munson is truly a great American. I ask the House to join me in extending our sincere thanks and warmest congratulations to Mr. Layton Munson.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF NANCY WACKSTEIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LENOX HILL NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Nancy Wackstein, who has served as Executive Director of Lenox Hill Neighborhood House since October 1991. Ms. Wackstein has been a phenomenal director, helping to expand the array of services provided by Lenox Hill and ensuring that Lenox Hill continues to be a vital force in the community. After more than ten years of service, Ms. Wackstein has accepted the challenge of be-

coming Executive Director of United Neighborhood Houses of New York, the federation of the City’s 37 settlement houses and neighborhood centers.

Founded over 100 years ago, Lenox Hill Neighborhood House is dedicated to helping those in need who live, work, or go to school on Manhattan’s East Side, primarily the Upper East Side, and to improving the quality of life for all individuals and families in the community. Each year, Lenox Hill serves over 20,000 people of different generations, cultures, means, and ethnic groups—children, teens, single parents, home-bound older adults and homeless people, among others.

During her tenure at Lenox Hill, the House has expanded its innovative programs for seniors, young people, recreation and fitness and community education. Lenox Hill operates two senior centers, a community outreach program and other programs that serve more than 2,800 senior citizens each year and their caregivers. Ms. Wackstein presided over the creation of the newest senior center, Lenox Hill Senior Center at St. Peter’s Church, the first new senior center on the East Side of Manhattan in decades.

The Early Childhood Center at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House was granted accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children on December 6, 2001. This prestigious recognition, only achieved by approximately 7 percent of early childhood programs nationwide, certifies that Lenox Hill’s early childhood program meets national standards of excellence in childcare. With after school programs, a teen center and a summer camp, Lenox Hill also provides a wide array of programs for older children.

Lenox Hill provides invaluable assistance to residents of the East Side through its Neighborhood Information and Action Center. More than 900 East Siders each year find help with landlord disputes, government entitlements and other concerns. Lenox Hill also provides educational programs for people needing training in computer skills, vocational rehabilitation and English as a second language.

The comprehensive range of services available at Lenox Hill is due to Ms. Wackstein’s determined leadership and unwavering commitment to service. She truly understands the needs of this community and has worked tirelessly to ensure that East Siders have a warm and friendly place to come to in times of trouble. Under her leadership, Lenox Hill Neighborhood House has continued to exemplify the best that the East Side has to offer.

Before joining Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, Ms. Wackstein served as the Director of the Moay’s Office on Homelessness and SRO Housing from 1990–1991 under Mayor David Dinkins. She was Senior Policy Advisor for Human Services in Manhattan Borough President David Dinkins’ office from 1986–1989, where she was also Staff Director for the Task Force on Housing. Ms. Wackstein serves on the Boards of Directors of several non-profit organizations, including the Human Services Council of New York, SAGE and the 9/11 United Services Group. In 1988, Ms. Wackstein received a Samuel and May Rudin Community Service Award for exceptional service to the homeless, and in 1991 the recognition award from the Settlement Housing Fund for her efforts to end homelessness.

In recognition of these outstanding achievements, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Nancy Wackstein, an outstanding leader,

a compassionate individual and a truly remarkable director for Lenox Hill Neighborhood House. I wish her luck in her new position as head of United Neighborhood Houses.

SAME SONG AND DANCE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues an editorial from the September 18, 2002, edition of the Lincoln Journal-Star entitled, "We've seen Saddam's act before." It correctly conveys the skepticism with which the United States and the United Nations should approach Saddam Hussein's recent announcement to allow U.N. weapons inspectors into Iraq.

[lsqb]From the Lincoln Journal-Star, Sept. 18, 2002[rsqb]

WE'VE SEEN SADDAM'S ACT BEFORE

Anyone who believes that Saddam Hussein suddenly caved in to international pressure and will now "unconditionally" permit weapons inspections is dangerously gullible. Saddam's negotiating style was described accurately and colorfully by President George W. Bush. Once again Saddam is "sidestepping, crawfishing and wheedling."

Translations of the six-page letter, complete with a three-page addendum, have not yet been released.

But some news sources, including The Economist, reported that the letter from Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri to the U.N. "leaves scope for doubt. It merely says they can return, for example, not explicitly that they will enjoy unrestricted access."

A senior State Department official in a White House briefing described the letter this way: "It is not a promise to fulfill all its obligations under Security Council resolutions. It is not a promise to allow full and unfettered access for U.N. inspectors. It is not a promise to disclose, or a disclosure, of all its prohibited programs. And it's not a promise to disarm, as Iraq is obliged to do."

Saddam should not be allowed to let a promise turn into delay. United Nations officials have said in recent days they are prepared to resume inspections immediately.

The United Nations should waste no time taking up the offer. Send in the inspectors now. Call Saddam's bluff.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 386 and 387, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO THE SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY AT EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY ON ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, as a proud graduate of Eastern Illinois University

and the honorary Chairman of the Alumni Centennial Committee, I am pleased to pay tribute to the School of Technology at Eastern Illinois University on the celebration of its 100th anniversary.

In 1902, Eastern Illinois University began to offer courses in Manual Training in order to educate students on the study of technology. Eventually the Illinois Board of Higher Education approved the Industrial Technology program, with three options: light building construction, electronics, and metals. The program has been accredited and reaccredited numerous times by the National Association of Industrial Technology.

Eastern Illinois' School of Technology is an outstanding institution and provides its students with the tools and resources necessary to succeed in life. Exemplifying its excellence and stature, the school has experienced a large enrollment increase for this fall semester.

Today, over 500 attend Eastern Illinois' School of Technology. They study a variety of disciplines that prepare them for careers in industry, business, government, and education. The school's faculty and staff are exceptional as they serve both the needs of their students and provide consulting and training needs for the business and industrial community.

Mr. Speaker, the School of Technology at Eastern Illinois University has much to be proud of on its Centennial Anniversary. I regret I cannot attend the school's ceremonies, but I wish the school further success and prosperity for the next 100 years and after.

IN MEMORY OF META FULLER WALLER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Meta Fuller Waller, a dear friend to many, a dedicated public servant and athletic team captain who tragically lost her life in the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

Born into a family steeped in the civil rights movement, Meta Waller learned at a very young age an appreciation for the arts and the value of a good education. Her two famous grandparents, Meta Warrick Fuller, an African American sculptor and Solomon Carter Fuller, the first African American psychiatrist in the United States, inspired Meta to pursue her dreams regardless of what stood in her path. These instilled values guided Meta throughout life, especially during the sorrowful loss of some of her closest family members.

With a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a master's degree from the prestigious Harvard Kennedy School of Government in 1982, Meta worked hard to meet the many challenges she faced as the Special Programs Manager for the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. In her twelve years at the Pentagon, Meta was heavily involved in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), the annual fund raising drive conducted by Federal employees on behalf of numerous non-profit charities. She diligently served as the Army CFC administrator for 14 years and helped raise in excess of \$30 mil-

lion dollars to benefit the least fortunate in our society.

An avid writer and poet, Meta charmed those fortunate enough to witness her literary talent. Meta's active imagination made her a gifted storyteller whose vividly refreshing tales could keep an audience spellbound for hours. Always in search of new challenges, Meta picked up the game of tennis much later in life than most. Despite a lack of past exposure to the sport, she rose to become captain of her women's tennis team, holding the position for three years.

Ever conscientious and adventure seeking, Meta's passions led her to travel the world often. Her most recent trip took her to Durban, South Africa for the World Conference on Racism. Traveling with a group of schoolchildren, Meta gained a first-hand knowledge of the continuing struggle to end racism across the globe. Upon returning home, Meta told family members that the experience had changed her life.

Mr. Speaker, Meta's life serves as a testament to us all that with love and determination we can overcome any odds and lead inspired lives. Everyone misses her dearly but the memory of her indomitable spirit will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE 2002 OLIN E. TEAGUE AWARD RECIPIENTS DR. DOUGLAS NOFFSINGER AND DR. RORY COOPER

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in a ceremony on Wednesday, September 18, 2002, in the Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing room, Dr. Douglas Noffsinger, Chief, Office of Audiology and Speech Pathology, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, Los Angeles, California, and Dr. Rory Cooper, Director, Rehabilitation Research and Development Center, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Pittsburgh, PA, each received an Olin E. Teague Award for their efforts on behalf of disabled veterans.

The Teague Award is presented annually to a VA employee (or employees) whose achievements have been of extraordinary benefit to veterans with service-connected disabilities, and is the highest honor presented by VA in the field of rehabilitation.

Dr. Noffsinger was selected to receive this prestigious award in honor of his significant contributions to the rehabilitation of veterans with hearing loss, one of the most common disabilities resulting from military service. His efforts have been multi-faceted and include cutting-edge research, establishing national practice algorithms for selecting and fitting hearing aids, and developing guidelines to assure that all veterans needing hearing aids have equal access to treatment. Dr. Noffsinger is commended for his leadership role in formulating national clinical practice guidelines for selecting and fitting hearing aids that have been accepted as official policy by the professional associations that represent all private and public sector audiologists.

Rory A. Cooper, Ph.D., was recognized with a Teague Award for his major contributions to

the rehabilitation of paralyzed individuals, in the design of the modern wheelchairs, for his promotion of the understanding of secondary disabilities among wheelchair users, and for his persistent efforts to improve the availability of high quality products and services to veterans who use wheelchairs. Dr. Cooper's work has affected thousands of veterans by elevating the quality of the wheelchair produced by manufacturers and provided by the VA and other third party payers. Dr. Cooper is one of the world's foremost authorities in wheelchair design and technology. His impact on the lives of people with disabilities has been, and will continue to be, truly profound.

Mr. Speaker, the name Olin E. "Tiger" Teague is synonymous with exemplary service to the Nation's veterans. The late Congressman Teague served on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for 32 years, 18 of those years as its distinguished chairman. No one who worked with him on veterans' issues ever had to ask why he was called "Tiger." He set the standards by which we can best serve all veterans. I know my colleagues join me in offering our deep appreciation to Dr. Noffsinger and Dr. Cooper for their concern, dedication, and innovation in meeting the special rehabilitation needs of veterans. We congratulate Dr. Noffsinger and Dr. Cooper for the excellence of their work and for the distinguished award they received.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 5409 "THE CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST RESPONSIBLE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION ACT OF 2002"

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I would thank my colleagues Congressman CALVERT, Congressman HUNTER, Congressman CUNNINGHAM, Congressman RADANOVICH, Congressman DOOLITTLE and Congresswoman BONO for their commitment to meeting southern California's energy demands and their continued concern for the communities and property owners affected by the need for a new transmission line.

The Cleveland National Forest Responsible Electricity Transmission Act of 2002 will create a corridor through the Trabuco Ranger District of the Cleveland National Forest, whereby a 500 KV transmission line can be built to connect the Valley-Serrano transmission line (owned by Southern California Edison) to the Telega-Escondido transmission line (owned by San Diego Gas & Electric). The approval of this corridor will greatly strengthen a fragile California transmission grid while protecting hundreds of homes and businesses from condemnation.

This bill is the result of discussions and negotiations among Members of Congress and other interested parties for nearly a year. Our legislation follows the basic premise that we should utilize lands set aside for public use before condemning private property for a transmission line. Nearly 97 percent of the corridor created by our bill will utilize public lands. SDG&E, the utility attempting to secure a corridor for a transmission line, has pledged

their support for our legislation in order to avoid making a decision that would be detrimental to the people of the Temecula Valley.

Our bill will do something else that California desperately needs. It will allow a local water district to connect a new source of power to the grid.

The proposed hydro electric facility on Lake Elsinore, adjacent to the corridor, will enable the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District to place 600 megawatts of green peaker power onto the transmission grid when the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) needs it.

In order for this project to become a reality, our legislation needs to become law. California needs both improved electrical infrastructure and a greater generation capacity: our bill is a step towards achieving these goals.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here talking about this common sense legislation. I, along with my colleagues, look forward to working with Chairman BARTON and Chairman TAUZIN to make this important legislation law.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VERLYAN RUTH BYRD

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Verlyan Ruth Byrd.

Ruth passed from this life on July 28th. Her passing left a gap in the lives of those who knew her, but also in the lives of many others who did not.

She was a compassionate and tireless advocate on behalf of others who were, like her, impacted by the Government Pension Offset provision. Ruth worked to repeal the Offset, knowing how such a repeal would help others whose Social Security benefits were reduced as a result of the Offset.

Ruth had many friends who joined her in her efforts to repeal the Offset and will carry on in her memory. One of those friends, Cory Grah, continues to make an impact on this issue.

It's for people like Ruth and Cory, that I once again call on my fellow members of Congress to join me in our efforts to repeal the Government Pension Offset once and for all.

There are more Ruths and Corys out there, and they deserve better.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE WEEK

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Osteopathic Medicine Week, October 6–12, 2002, a week when the nation's 49,000 osteopathic physicians (D.O.s) are particularly dedicated to increasing the public's awareness of access to care issues.

For almost 25 years now, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and its members have celebrated the osteopathic medical community's unified effort to educate the nation

about issues influencing the American health care system. I am especially pleased the theme of this year's NOM Week is "Access to Care."

Access to care promotes appropriate entry into the health system and is vital to ensuring the long-term viability of rural health care delivery. Without access to local health care professionals, rural residents are frequently forced to leave their communities to receive necessary treatments.

When D.O.s, student doctors and supporters of osteopathic medicine travel to Las Vegas, NV to attend the AOA's 107th Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar, nearly 8,000 will receive the latest information on access to care issues such as professional liability insurance (PLI), uninsured children, bioterrorism and mental health. I applaud the osteopathic medical community for emphasizing patient access issues, so important to the 17th District of Texas and the Nation.

Take for example, access to children's health care. While nationwide participation in the State Children's Health Insurance Program has increased since its 1997 inception, many parents whose children qualify for the program have not yet enrolled them.

And let's not forget the access to care barriers facing our minority populations. It is a proven fact that America's many racial and ethnic groups are frequently at a disadvantage on a wide-range of measures, including effective patient-physician communication, overcoming cultural and linguistic challenges, and availability of health care and insurance coverage.

Access to health care can be established only when medical professionals are available to provide quality health care. Over the past few years, medical liability premiums and payments have escalated out of control causing health care quality, access, and cost problems. While some states have passed professional liability insurance (PLI) system reforms, not every state has effective laws in place. The osteopathic medical community recognizes many states face critical PLI system problems.

For more than a century, D.O.s have made a difference in the lives and health of my fellow citizens in Texas as well as all Americans. Overall, more than 100 million patient visits are made each year to these fully licensed physicians able to prescribe and perform surgery. D.O.s serve the needs of rural and underserved communities and make up 15 percent of the total physician population in towns of 10,000 or less.

D.O.s are certified in nearly 60 specialties and 33 subspecialties. D.O.s complete and pass: four years of medical education at one of 20 osteopathic medical schools; a one-year internship; a multi-year residency; and a state medical board exam. Throughout this education, D.O.s are trained to understand how the musculoskeletal system influences the condition of all other body systems. Many patients want their health care provider to have this extra knowledge as a part of their health care.

In recognition of NOM Week, I would like to congratulate the over 2,500 Texas D.O.s, the 453 students at University of North Texas Health Sciences Center at Fort Worth, and the 49,000 D.O.s represented by the American Osteopathic Association. Your contributions to the good health of the American people are commendable.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JACK
FITZGERALD

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership of Jack Fitzgerald and the efforts of Fitzgerald Auto Mall. Working in concert with the National Safe Kids Campaign, police, fire and rescue officials, and the Montgomery County Maryland Office of Consumer Affairs, they have worked diligently to ensure that child safety seats have been installed in vehicles correctly. Today, at Fitzgerald Auto Mall, the 20,000th child safety seat inspection will be performed.

Nearly 90% of the child safety seats that have been inspected at Fitzgerald Auto Mall found incorrect installations—some with multiple errors. In addition to those who made the inspections and corrections, I would like to recognize those 20,000 families who came to get their child safety seats checked. It is a testament to the active and concerned citizenry that helps make our community unique. We cannot accurately say how many lives have been saved through this effort, but without a doubt, vehicles and families are now safer because of it.

Let us all hope that tens of thousands more will follow the lead of this first 20,000, and I salute Fitzgerald Auto Mall and all the community leaders who have worked so tirelessly in this effort.

**TERRORIST ATTACKS OF SEPT. 11,
2001**

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, last Wednesday our nation commemorated the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. While these attacks were committed on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, they were in fact directed at our nation as a whole. Our freedom, our way of life, the very foundations of our great democracy, were ruthlessly targeted by an unprecedented force of evil. Now, one year later, our nation is stronger and more unified than ever to rid the world of terrorism in all of its forms, as well as its root causes including poverty, injustice, and despair. It is my sincere hope that America never forgets the terrible atrocities committed within our borders. These acts were a direct attack upon freedom loving people everywhere and we have a duty to ensure that freedom and democracy prevail in this struggle against tyranny and oppression.

**YELLOW RIBBON YOUTH SUICIDE
AWARENESS AND PREVENTION
WEEK IN PENNSYLVANIA**

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the fight

against suicide. Suicide takes the lives of over 30,000 Americans each year. Last year, September 16-22, was designated as the Yellow Ribbon Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Week in Pennsylvania. This week brought community awareness to suicide, helped educate the public about suicide prevention techniques and brought together families who have lost loved ones to suicide.

Suicide prevention efforts are an important factor in reducing the amount of suicides in this country. More people die from suicide than from homicide each year. The Yellow Ribbon Program has helped people of all ages ask for help during their most desperate times.

Members of Congress and communities throughout the country have supported this organization. Please join me in recognizing this important group and the important role it has provided in preventing suicides.

**RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POW/MIA
RECOGNITION DAY**

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, citizens across central New Jersey and the Nation will pause on National POW/MIA Recognition Day to reflect on the heroism of the thousands of Americans who endured the hardship of enemy confinement, and those who are missing and whose fate remains unknown. I'm proud to join them in observing this important and solemn occasion and to say thanks to those who have made this sacrifice.

Especially now, at this difficult time in our nation's history, we must remember, that for some brave families, especially the families of our missing, the war is never over. Many of us have read recently about the questions of the fate of one of our service people from the Gulf War, Navy Pilot Scott Speicher. For his family and others this day is especially important. While our government is still making every effort to account for our soldiers, there are still 88,000 of our fellow citizens are missing in action from World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War and the Vietnam War. As a nation, we must do all that we can to continue to honor them and to account for them.

In central New Jersey, and the country, of-fices, schools and businesses will fly the POW/MIA flag. It will fly at national and military cemeteries and here, in the Capitol Rotunda, the most honored place in this historic seat of our government.

This nation has not forgotten its obligation to former POWs and those who are still missing in action. As people gather today for patriotic ceremonies and speeches to commemorate our POW/MIA's, America's commitment to them remains strong.

I hope my colleagues will join me in marking National POW/MIA recognition day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

September 12, 2002: rollcall vote 385, on motion to go to conference, I would have voted "yea"; rollcall vote 386, on approving the journal, I would have voted "yea."

September 18, 2002: rollcall vote 391, on agreeing to H. Res. 528, I would have voted "yea."

**AMERICAN FRONTIERS: A PUBLIC
LANDS JOURNEY**

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, Idaho is blessed with a variety of natural resources, many of them located on public lands. We also are blessed with a diverse array of recreational choices, many of which also are available on public lands. Over 63 percent of Idaho is public land. Tens of thousand of visitors to our state each year are drawn by the beauty of those lands and by opportunities to drive Idaho's byways, camp, ski, hike, hunt, river raft or enjoy a host of other activities. America's public lands are an important legacy that belongs to all citizens. Recognizing that fact, Idaho recently hosted a special expedition called American Frontiers: A Public Lands Journey, which is drawing attention to this special legacy. This 3,200-mile journey by two teams of adventurers is helping to educate school-children about public lands and bringing all of us the opportunity to better understand the way these lands help shape the West. I encourage people to visit the special Web site that chronicles this amazing interactive journey, at www.americanfrontiers.net. The dispatches from the trail recount stories in Idaho ranging from encounters with grazing sheep and their shepherds to a "town" with a winter population of one person. All of the trekkers were impressed, most of all, with Idaho's vast beauty. As one of them observed: "The view across the meadow to the mountains is stunning. We see and hear three sandhill cranes flying overhead. The whole scene seems like right out of a movie." I commend the Public Lands Interpretive Association for organizing this effort. And I congratulate the individuals who will complete this two-month journey on September 28 in Salt Lake City!

RACING REMEMBERS

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize the American racing industry for its response to the terrible tragedies our nation suffered a year ago. I am deeply

gratified to note that the nation's horseracing industry, which is of such great importance to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, shared in our nation's ceremonies of remembrance on September 11. Yesterday, all across the country, our racetracks, owners, trainers and jockeys all stood together to remember what happened a year ago and to honor those who were lost and those who showed such great courage in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks.

The National Thoroughbred Racing Association requested that all racetracks operating on September 11 cease normal business operations to share in a 10-minute, nationally simulcast observance at 4:10 p.m. Eastern Time. All across the country, there was no racing or related activity at any NTRA-member facilities during the brief, dignified and patriotic service which included a flag ceremony, a moment of silence, the singing of the National Anthem and a video tribute.

The nationwide ceremony allowed racing and its fans to remember September 11 together, even though they were at many different locations, because the observance was broadcast via simulcast to many different facilities from Del Mar Thoroughbred Track in California. It was hosted by Emmy Award-winning broadcaster Dick Enberg.

This observance was the culmination of a year-long effort by the racing industry to raise funds for individuals and families devastated by the attacks. Over the past year, members of the international Thoroughbred horseracing community, including tracks, horse owners, trainers, grooms, jockeys and veterinarians, have contributed more than \$12 million to assist the families of those lost on September 11.

I am proud that the American racing and breeding industry has responded so patriotically to our nation's ordeal and assisted so many Americans hurt by those tragic attacks.

RECOGNIZING FOURTEEN YEARS OF TYRANNY IN BURMA

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fourteen year anniversary of the mislabeled State Peace and Development Council's brutal takeover of power in Burma. In addition, I commend Nobel Peace Prize laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for her continued strength and leadership during this period of repression and illegitimacy in Burma.

After legitimately winning Burma's 1990 election, Suu Kyi was placed under house arrest in Rangoon. Recently, she was released from house arrest, however, nearly 1,500 political prisoners remain in Burmese prisons for their peaceable opposition to the SPDC's illegitimate rule. Meanwhile, as many as one million Burmese citizens, many of whom are children, are forced to build roads, military installations, and railroads for the junta.

Over thirty percent of Burma's children are malnourished, yet the illegitimate SPDC regime continues to spend billions of dollars on military equipment purchased from China and Russia. The SPDC regime fails to provide any substantial assistance for critical health care

and educational programs in Burma, yet it continues to amass a dangerous military arsenal.

Burma is a country of peaceful, intelligent and freedom-loving citizens, yet the brutal ruling junta has spent the last fourteen years crushing the will of the people. I join my colleagues in recognizing the fourteen year anniversary of the SPDC's hostile military takeover, and I commend Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's continued efforts to fight for freedom, democracy, and human rights.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES B. WIGLE

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize James B. Wigle, who died Monday September 9, 2002.

His family, friends, community and industry have suffered a significant loss. Jim Wigle was an extraordinary man in many ways and has permanently left his mark. Today, I would like to honor James B. Wigle's career as a pioneer in the insurance industry, a philanthropic community leader, and his extraordinary efforts with the Morgan Horse Association and Institute.

Jim Wigle graduated from the University of Toronto in 1936 with a degree in Business Administration and later received his degree as a Chartered Life Underwriter from American University. He spent his entire career in the insurance industry, except for five years when he served as an officer in the Royal Canadian Artillery during World War II.

In 1946 Mr. Wigle came to California while working for the Occidental Life Company and later at The Travelers Insurance Company where he recognized the opportunities in the insurance distribution sector. After becoming an insurance representative, he wrote his first association group case in 1951 and began to specialize in this segment of the market, thus becoming one of the country's pioneers in insurance mass marketing through associations such as the American Legion Insurance Trust. To this end, in 1956 he formed Association Group Insurance Administrators. Today, AGIA has offices in California, Arizona, Minnesota, and Washington, D.C. AGIA ranks at the forefront of the independently-owned association group insurance broker-administrators in the United States. Mr. Wigle served as President and Chief Executive Officer until January 1, 1986, and then continued to be actively involved in the business as Chairman of the Board and Chief Financial Officer.

AGIA is a significant employer in the Santa Barbara and Carpinteria communities and participated in the funding of several community events over the years. Jim Wigle was always known as a loving, generous, and thoughtful person.

Jim participated in numerous local association programs over the years and served nationally as the President of both the American Morgan Horse Association and the American Morgan Horse Institute. He was responsible for raising the funds necessary to establish the Morgan Horse Museum and new permanent home for the AMHA in Shelburne, Vermont. His efforts were recognized, when he was

named the 1978 Morgan Horse Man of the Year honoree and 1990 Morgan Horse Hall of Fame honoree.

His determination, vitality, boundless energy and dedication will be missed, but despite his absence, Jim Wigle will continue to serve as an inspiration and as a role model to the many people who knew his indomitable spirit.

RECOGNIZING MR. MARTIN ORTIZ

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Ms. HILDA SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, we are extremely proud to rise today to honor a very special man—Mr. Martin Ortiz, founding Director of Whittier College's Center of Mexican American Affairs in Whittier, California.

Mr. Ortiz served our community for more than 40 years and retired leaving a foundation upon which the next generation of Latino students will strive to embrace their diversity as leaders, professionals, and contributors to their community. In recognition of Mr. Ortiz's devotion to the college and the community at large, he was named Director Emeritus and was given the opportunity to serve as a consultant to Whittier College.

Mr. Ortiz has a long litany of accomplishments, which speak to his sense of duty and responsibility to the community. As the founding director of Whittier College's Center of Mexican American Affairs, Mr. Ortiz served as a mentor to thousands of students, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college. His work contributed significantly to making Whittier College one of the most diverse liberal arts colleges in the country. Furthermore, Dr. Ortiz's leadership in diversity issues shaped the ethos of Whittier College in significant ways.

Mr. Ortiz has received many honors for his work, including recognition from the California Legislature for his dedication to the students and the community served by Whittier College. He also received the Recognition Award from the Personnel Management Association of Aztlan, National Board, for his promotion of employment opportunities for minority youth, and a Distinguished Service Award from the U.S. Department of Education. The college's organization Alianza de Los Amigos elected him to its Hall of Fame, and a \$1.5 million endowed scholarship has been established at Whittier in his honor.

Throughout his career, Mr. Ortiz has served as a consultant and advisor to many organizations. He has been a consultant to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and has served on many community and professional associations including the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, the Task Force on Improving Community Relations, the California Council of Criminal Justice, and the National Hispanic Task Force, Social Security Administration.

Mr. Speaker, we invite our colleagues to join us in saluting Mr. Martin Ortiz for his selfless and untiring efforts on behalf of Latino students. His devotion to his work and his commitment to others has earned him the love

and praise of countless people who have received his comfort, advice and support. We congratulate him on a wonderfully successful career and wish him all the best as he enters retirement.

H.R. 1701, THE CONSUMER RENTAL PURCHASE AGREEMENT ACT

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Consumer Rental Purchase Agreement Act, H.R. 1701. The bill before us is the product of the many months of hard work by several Members. I want to especially thank Congressman WALTER JONES and my Financial Service Committee colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their constructive input in producing a bipartisan, consumer friendly piece of legislation.

Let me make it clear, this bill establishes a federal floor for Rent-to-Own disclosures and consumer rights, and preserves states' options to regulate costs and other disclosures. That is, States can still apply further economic and substantive safeguards, such as regulating maximum rental costs, allowable fees, and fair collection practices should they decide to do so.

In April of 2000, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) issued a staff report that addresses many of the issues surrounding the rent-to-own industry. Generally speaking, the FTC report concluded that clear and comprehensive disclosures of the rental-purchase transaction would benefit both the industry and consumers. In that report, the FTC made some recommendations regarding the types of disclosure that would benefit consumers. The "Consumer Rental Purchase Agreement Act" is an effort to begin to implement those recommendations.

I think that everyone will agree that giving consumers the information they need to make informed decisions is both good public policy and ultimately good economic policy as well. The consumer safeguards provided in this legislation include the prohibition of certain fees, improved consumer disclosures, expanded civil liability, prohibition of abusive practices, and the preservation of existing rights.

H.R. 1701 requires several clear and conspicuous disclosures that assure merchants will not present information in such a way that conceals or misleads consumers as to the true cost of the transaction. The proposal includes a plain language requirement for use in contracts. Specifically, the bill requires that all merchandise bear a label or tag that discloses specific cost and merchandise information, such as the price to purchase the merchandise for cash, the rental payment amount, the total number of payments to acquire ownership, and the total cost of ownership. Additionally, H.R. 1701 requires that price tags and label disclosures (as well as contracts) include the total cost for ownership, which consists of the sum of all rental payments and any mandatory fees or charges, per the FTC report recommendation. The bill also requires that price tags and labels (and contracts) identify whether merchandise is new or used.

The Consumer Rental Purchase Agreement Act also prohibits the imposition of any special

fees to acquire ownership, including a prohibition on balloon payments. The bill prohibits merchants from charging more than one late fee for a delinquent rental payment, or charge for an unpaid late fee. This will ensure that consumers are not charged with unfair or over-burdensome penalties and fees for simply missing a payment.

Importantly, H.R. 1701 clarifies civil liabilities protections for consumers in Rent to Own transactions. H.R. 1701 expands civil liability and penalties to allow actions based on a "pattern or practice" of advertising violations. The bill explicitly provides for civil action and expanded penalties for enforcement by the FTC and State attorneys general, based on a pattern or practice of violations by a merchant.

Additionally, the bill ties criminal and civil liability and penalties for violations to the requirements of the Truth in Lending Act and Consumer Leasing Act.

Mr. Speaker, this bill establishes an important federal floor for consumer protection, and create a framework for additional consumer protection in the future. In sum, this legislation will give consumers the information they need to make informed decisions. It will also create a uniform regulatory baseline that will help with the growth of the industry and its contributions to our economy. I urge my colleagues to support this far-sighted legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, on September 17, 2002, I was absent for personal reasons and missed rollcall votes numbered 388 through 390. For the record, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on all of these votes.

HONORING KENNETH LARGESS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kenneth Largess, this year's Grand Marshal for the Spirit of Shrewsbury Festival. This gathering for all townspeople will also celebrate the town's 275th anniversary.

Ken Largess grew up in Shrewsbury and attended Shrewsbury High School, where he graduated in 1968 and then received a teaching degree from Worcester State College. Soon after he began a teaching career in Shrewsbury and is now an Assistant Principal at Shrewsbury High School. Ken has been deeply involved in the planning and construction of the new high school building that will be dedicated this Sunday. He is an integral part of the school community and is one of the reasons behind its tremendous success. Dedicated to his students, he is one of those educators to whom we can point to and say, "He has made a difference in the lives of those he serves." The town of Shrewsbury is indeed fortunate.

Outside of work, he and his wife, Patti, are the proud parents of three grown children,

Kenny, Tara and Erin. Ken and Patti have spent some of their happiest hours on the soccer field, baseball field and basketball court cheering on their children and teammates.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in offering our congratulations and best wishes to Ken Largess and to the people in the Town of Shrewsbury.

INTRODUCING A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD WORK THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS REGARDING IRAQ

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of America leading a strong and sustained diplomatic effort with our partners in the international community to confront Saddam Hussein.

I am proud to join my colleague and friend Barbara Lee—among many others—in introducing a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the U.S. work through the United Nations to assure Iraq's compliance with UN resolutions regarding weapons of mass destruction rather than pursue a unilateral military attack.

Last week, President Bush finally listened to the wise counsel of the American people and engaged the United Nations on Iraq's failure to comply with its resolutions. While I applaud the President's effort to reach out to our partners in the United Nations, he seriously undermined the cause of diplomacy by threatening unilateral action if the UN did not meet America's demands for military action. I urge the President to heed his own words and allow the United Nations to live up to its responsibility to hold Iraq accountable without forcing hostile military action that threatens America and the world.

I strongly question the President's assertion that immediate military action is necessary. The evidence of an imminent threat from Iraq is not there. The Administration's so-called secret briefings have provided Congress with paltry information they could have as easily read in the New York Times. Our intelligence agencies will have to provide something more compelling than generalized claims that Iraq could have some nuclear capability in six months to seven years. They don't even know if Iraq even has the capability of striking the United States with any weapon at this time.

Without concrete evidence, I do not want our President to run off willy-nilly and risk the lives of America's young men and women. Especially, when the President has not shown the resolve to seek the evidence to justify such action or to pursue a peaceful solution to the situation.

The President has also ignored the track record of past weapons inspectors in Iraq. Between 1991 and 1998, they were successful in destroying large stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons. He has dismissed Iraq's offer to allow weapons inspectors back into Iraq unconditionally. Even worse are the statements from the Administration that the United

States should attack Iraq, even if Saddam Hussein were proven to be compliant with existing UN resolutions. As reported by today's Washington Post, the Administration is even trying to suppress the scientific analysis of government experts who refute their claims that equipment sought by Iraq would provide the capability of producing nuclear weapons.

Am I to believe that the President has made waging war with Iraq a foregone conclusion? I think Americans deserve more serious consideration on the part of our President before we plunge our nation into war and risk the lives of their loved ones.

Should the President compel Congress to go to war, the United States risks setting an international precedent that the mere suspicion that a nation may soon possess weapons of mass destruction is reason enough to preemptively attack them or force a regime change. Who are we to attack next? Iran? North Korea? China?

If we should remove Saddam Hussein from power, we must consider the consequences. Secretary Rumsfeld has said it is up to the Iraqi people to confront the challenges of a post-Saddam Hussein Iraq. This would likely ignite a civil war between the Shiites, the Kurds, the Turks, and other ethnic groups that make up that nation. Do we want these warring groups to gain access to chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, should they exist? Is it worth risking the stability of the Middle East or the world?

Given the need for an extended U.S. presence there, would our invasion be worth the price at home? It would likely cost over \$60 billion to deploy our troops and sustain a force of up to 100,000 U.S. troops in one year alone. These troops would likely have to stay for up to 5–10 years as part of an international peacekeeping force. Rebuilding a war torn Iraq would also likely cost roughly \$50–100 billion.

With deficit spending already running at over \$150 billion this year, these military costs would create a monumental budget crisis when we've yet to secure basic domestic priorities like a prescription drug benefit or shoring up the solvency of Social Security.

Finally, by acting with the tepid support of the international community, protracted U.S. involvement in Iraq could threaten the support we have gotten from Middle East countries in our war on terrorism. It could easily ignite long-standing discontent among the Arab people that would only fuel a more aggressive terrorist offensive here in the United States.

For these reasons, I believe we must proceed wholeheartedly with responsible and sustained diplomacy. I am proud to sponsor BARBARA LEE's resolution that underscores the value and necessity of this effort. The President must lead the United Nations to fulfill its mission without unnecessary bloodshed. I urge my colleagues to join with us to provide him this mandate.

**MOURNING LOSS OF MAYOR
RALPH APPEZZATO**

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sadness over the loss

of Mayor Ralph Appezato. Ralph was a friend and a colleague. I offer my heartfelt sympathy to his wife of 34 years, Marilyn, and their three sons, David, Jason and Joshua.

I always valued Ralph's counsel and his friendship. He will be remembered as one of our nation's most effective mayors, particularly for his leadership in the award-winning conversion of the former Alameda Naval Base to successful civilian uses.

Like many friends, colleagues and citizens in the Bay Area, I was shocked to learn about Ralph's untimely death. With his passing we have lost a warrior for social justice and positive change. Ralph was a dedicated public servant held in the highest regard.

Ralph was elected Mayor of the City of Alameda on November 8, 1994, and reelected November 3, 1998. He was previously elected to the City Council in November, 1992 and was a member of the Alameda City Planning Board, twice serving as President.

Ralph is a graduate of Seton Hall University and went on to receive a graduate degree in Education from Villanova University. He is also a graduate of the Armed Forces Command and General Staff College.

Ralph served as a Marine Corps Officer, retiring as a Colonel in 1983. After leaving the Marine Corps, he was a Vice President at Bank of America for seven years and Chief Operating Officer at Volunteers of America for four years.

Ralph's dedication to community issues was reflected in his participation on many regional organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area, including: the Alameda Reuse and Redevelopment Authority; the East Bay Conversion and Reinvestment Commission; the Alameda County Waste Management Authority; the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency; the Alameda County Mayors' Conference; the Alameda County Airport Land Use Commission; the Metropolitan Transportation Commission; the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission; the San Francisco Bay Area Water Transit Authority; the Federal Department of Transportation Towing Safety Advisory Committee, and; the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Ralph also served on several Boards of Directors, including: Alameda Council, Boy Scouts of America; Alameda Boys and Girls Club; Clara Barton Foundation, and; Alameda Meals on Wheels.

I join his family, the City of Alameda and the Bay Area as we mourn the passing of a great American.

STAND FIRM VIGIL FOR SUDAN

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of deep concern over the continued attacks by the Khartoum regime in Sudan against innocent civilians. Recent reports indicate that the Government of Sudan, despite agreeing to a peace proposal, bombed the town of Lui—why would they bomb a town that has only a school, hospital and church and no military installations? This recent incident shows the real intentions of the Khartoum regime.

Christians, Muslims and others have suffered terribly under the Khartoum regime—it is

time that this suffering comes to an end. Reports are clear that the Khartoum regime has violated numerous international human rights norms: they enslave women and children, divert food aid, bomb schools, hospitals and churches, force religious conversions, and forcibly "re-educate" citizens.

The story of Mr. Francis Bok of Southern Sudan reflects the reality of life for many of Sudan's children. At the age of seven, Mr. Bok was captured and enslaved during an Arab militia raid on the village of Nimlal. For ten years, he lived as the family slave to Giema Abdullah and was forced to sleep with cattle, endure daily beatings, and eat rotten food. Tragically, slavery still exists today.

Mr. Speaker, there is a constant flow of reports out of Sudan which describe the horrors of life for the people, particularly those from the South, under the Khartoum regime. Our nation, and the international community must stand in solidarity with the people of Sudan and offer concrete, practical ways to alleviate their suffering and bring peace. We must act to bring an end once and for all to the civil war and deliberate genocide in Sudan. The recent peace agreements are a step forward, yet Khartoum already has violated the agreements.

This week, a number of organizations, led by the Institute on Religion and Democracy (IRD), are staging a Stand Firm Vigil for Sudan. I commend IRD, Christian Solidarity International (CSI), the American Anti-Slavery Group, Servant's Heart Ministry for Sudan and others for their tireless work on behalf of the suffering people of Sudan. I stand with you and with the freedom-loving people of Sudan.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PAUL L. BRADY

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute a distinguished citizen, Paul L. Brady, of the Fifth Congressional District of Georgia as he celebrates a special day in his life, his 75th birthday.

Paul L. Brady, a native of Flint, Michigan, received his early education in the Flint public schools. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Following military service, he attended the University of Michigan and University of Kansas, majoring in psychology.

Judge Brady's interest in the law was prompted by his personal involvement in what became the landmark case of Brown v. The Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. He attended law school at Washburn University, Topeka, where he received his Juris Doctor Degree. He did further study at the Lawyer's Institute, Chicago, Illinois; the Center for Administrative Justice, George Washington University; and graduate work at Georgetown Law Center, Washington, DC.

His legal experience included twelve years of private practice in Chicago, Illinois, an adjudicator for the Social Security Administration, a Supervisory Trial Attorney for the Federal Power Commission (receiving this commission's highest award for efficiency in 1971), and a Hearing Examiner with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

In 1972, he was appointed a Federal Administrative Law Judge and became the first African American to be so named. After serving 25 years on the bench, Judge Brady retired. During the last 6 years of his tenure, he presided as Chief Judge of the Atlanta Regional office. In his honor, a Library-Conference Room has been designated the Brady Conference Room in the Sam Nunn Federal Office Building.

Judge Brady is a member of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association, the Federal Administrative Law Judges' Conference and the Federal Bar Association. He has also served as a faculty coordinator for a course on Administrative Law Procedure at the National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada. In addition to being a member of several State Bars, he is also admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States.

A life member of the NAACP, he has received numerous awards and honors for community involvement, the highlight of which was national recognition for organizing government lawyers in a Volunteer Neighborhood Legal Services Program in Washington, DC.

In 1992, Flint Central High School selected Judge Brady as one of its initial honorees in the Alumni Hall of Fame. In 1997 he was inducted into the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame. He is the author of "A Certain Blindness," a book that chronicles his family's history and is a prototype of other African-American families' quest for the "promise of America."

Judge Brady is the father of two children: Paul L. Brady, Jr., of Los Angeles, Dr. Laura Brady Sullivan and son-in-law Dr. Paul Sullivan, Southlake, Texas and grandson Paul Sullivan, Jr. He lives in Atlanta with his wife, Xernona, a television executive.

THE INTRODUCTION OF AN ACT TO
AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE
CODE OF 1986 TO EXCLUDE FROM
INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT
TAXES AND WAGE WITHHOLDING
PROPERTY TAX REBATES AND
OTHER BENEFITS PROVIDED TO
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND
EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDERS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce bipartisan legislation that would exclude tax abatements and other qualified incentives provided by local governments to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders from being considered part of an individual's gross income, and allow states and communities around the country to provide these important recruiting and retention incentives to their volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders.

Studies conducted by the United States Fire Administration show that 73 percent of all fire departments in the United States are volunteer departments. These volunteer departments account for protecting 38 percent of America's population, in both rural and urban areas. However, statistics have shown that the ranks of volunteer fire companies are shrinking at an

alarming rate. The number of volunteer firefighters around the country has declined 5 to 10 percent since the 1980s, while emergency service calls have steadily increased over the same period.

To help localities recruit and retain volunteer firefighters, the State of Connecticut enacted a law allowing among other things, the legislative body of any municipality to establish, by ordinance, a program to abate property taxes due for any fiscal year for a resident of the municipality who volunteers his or her services as a firefighter, emergency medical technician, or ambulance driver in the municipality. Many other states have passed similar initiatives.

However, when cities and towns seeking to pass local ordinances providing the abatements or other incentives under the state law, the IRS ruled in a similar property tax abatement inquiry, that under current federal law the amount of property tax abated for volunteers was considered income.

Also, since the workers do not actually receive "cash" for these "wages," the "employer" (i.e. localities) would be required to pay both portions of the FICA tax on the amount of property tax abated. Further, if the localities do not seek reimbursement from the volunteers for their portion of the FICA tax, then that portion would be considered wages for FICA tax purposes subject to an additional FICA tax.

Clearly, this confusing ruling undermines the intention of providing incentives to recruit and retain enough volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders to keep our communities safe and puts an enormous economic burden on localities.

In today's fast paced economy where men and women must work longer hours or multiple jobs just to break even, time to volunteer is becoming a thing of the past. These types of creative incentives help encourage new volunteers to strengthen the ranks of the men and women who already safeguard our community. If our cities and towns are willing to forgo their local tax revenues in order to ensure they have enough volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders to protect their communities, then Washington DC and the IRS should not be allowed to swoop in and take the money for themselves.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and insure that state and local governments have the flexibility to design and implement the type of recruiting and retention incentive programs that most adequately reflect the needs of their communities and volunteers.

IN MEMORY OF CORPORAL JAMES
VICTOR ARNAUD AND DEPUTY
ELIZABETH LICERA MAGRUDER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Corporal James Victor Arnaud and Deputy Elizabeth Licera Magruder. These two officers lost their lives in the line of duty on August 29, 2002.

Corporal Arnaud was in the Army for twenty years before retiring and joining the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office. He resided

in North Beach, in Calvert County, Maryland and he served as an officer for 13 years before his tragic death. Corporal Arnaud was an excellent officer and he was posthumously awarded the rank of sergeant for his service. He is survived by his wife, Theresa, two children, Jamey and Michael, and two grandchildren, Joseph and Jacob.

Deputy Magruder graduated from the Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy on May 3, 2002. She recently bought a house in Clinton, Maryland and is survived by her husband, Derwin, and her son, Devin. Deputy Magruder loved her job and strived to help other people.

Both of these officers were shot to death while working overtime to serve an emergency psychiatric court order. Serving court orders is considered a routine duty for officers to perform. However, this tragedy reminds us of the terribly high risks that a law enforcement officer faces while doing even routine tasks.

Local law enforcement officers like Deputy Magruder and Corporal Arnaud have such a strong sense of duty to their community that they willingly put themselves at risk every day that they are on the job to protect our lives and make our communities safer. This dedication to duty makes law enforcement officers an integral part of a community's strength.

This is a true meaning of the word "hero." A person who is determined to help others, even if it means sacrificing their lives.

Local law enforcement officers have the courage to guard us, the compassion to help us, and the strength of spirit to do their job, even though they are rarely praised. Corporal Arnaud and Deputy Magruder are a part of this tradition, and they gave their lives in the course of a routine day. We shall not forget them; their bravery and sense of duty are certainly worthy of praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the sacrifices of Corporal James Arnaud and Deputy Elizabeth Magruder.

FINISH WORK ON CAMPAIGN
FINANCE REFORM

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to invite the attention of my colleagues to a sea change that is taking place in our political life, a change unanticipated by our founders: the nationalization of campaigns for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Our founders envisioned a Congress made up of members obligated to represent the interests and views of widely diverse constituencies. But as money has become the lever of influence and as that money now comes from national sources, candidates are finding themselves indebted more to those who play the slot machines of influence than those they attempt to influence—i.e., the voter.

Many active in American politics may take this money game development for granted and may even welcome it, but this change has profound ramifications for our experiment in self government that deserve careful consideration.

As we all know, the Constitution sketches the outlines of the House in Section 2 of Article 1. What the founders had in mind for the

body is perhaps summed up best by Madison in Number 57 of *The Federalist Papers*: "The House of Representatives is so constituted as to support in the members an habitual recollection of their dependence on the people."

The late Speaker Tip O'Neill's dictum "all politics is local" and our referral to this place as "the people's body" symbolize this fundamental understanding of the nature and purpose of the House.

Modern campaigning, with its emphasis on image and short, simple messages, and its use of television to project these images and messages, combined with the role of special interest money in financing increasingly expensive House contests, is in danger of severing this defining relationship between Members and their constituents. At risk is the disenfranchisement of the American voter. In 2002 several factors have combined to make my home state of Iowa a microcosm of this troubling development.

This is the first election following the Constitutionally-mandated decennial census and resulting reapportionment of the House. In Iowa, re-Districting properly is not the incumbent protection process it is in most states. Rather, the state's constitution requires that Iowa's ninety-nine counties be grouped together in a configuration that distributes the population most evenly among the five Congressional Districts without dividing a single county. This approach should and has in the past meant a renewal of political life in the state, with a new alignment of districts revitalizing the state's body politic.

This year the district realignment process worked well. The question now is whether the outside interest groups involvement has mushroomed to such an extent that the nature of our state's congressional elections have changed in such ways as to incentivize negativity and reward the kind of campaigning designed to appeal to the lower instincts of human nature.

The slim margins of control in both bodies of the national legislature, the protection extended to incumbents and therefore the status quo in other states, a close gubernatorial contest and a hotly contested Senate seat, the closeness of the last presidential election in the state and the pivotal role the Iowa caucuses will play in the 2004 race for the White House, have all combined to make Iowa a principal battleground on which this year's political fight is being waged.

As a consequence, money has been pouring into the state from national special interest PACs. Our airwaves have been jammed with radio and television ads, both positive and now increasingly negative in nature, purchased at already exorbitant and rapidly escalating cost. Mailings from campaigns and parties cram the state's mailboxes and politicians from across the country flock in droves to the Iowa, ostensibly to assist this or that candidate, but certainly to boost their own ambitions for leadership positions in Congress or on the broader national stage.

In addition, interest groups from across the political spectrum are making "independent expenditures" on behalf of Iowa candidates in unprecedented numbers. These efforts, whether positive or negative in nature, in the form of newspaper, radio or television ads, mailings or the sending in of workers to forward a candidate or cause, are by law without the knowledge, much less the control, of the campaigns effected by them.

What is being lost in this cacophonous war of political words and images is the voice of individual Iowans, that to which Members and candidates for the House are charged principally to attend.

As many of you know, I have been an advocate of radical campaign finance reform throughout my tenure in the House. Since first seeking public office, I have refused contributions from special interest PACs and accepted support only from individual Iowans, limiting that to half what is allowed by law. I have regularly offered to enter into agreements with my opponents to limit campaign spending and just as regularly been rebuffed, as I was this year.

Moreover, I also have consistently requested that outside groups not make independent expenditures in my races. I have done so this year and would like to reiterate and underscore that request now. Outside interest groups should stay out of what are intended by the Constitution and ought to remain in-state voter choices.

But as important as it is to me, the shifting nature of modern campaigns is about much more than House races in Iowa. If the trend toward more expensive races and thus heavier financial obligations for candidates is not curbed, Congress will become a legislative body where the small businessman or woman, the farmer, the worker, and the ordinary citizen are only secondarily represented.

Whatever the makeup of the 108th Congress, I would hope that it will give a high priority to finishing the work of campaign finance reform that this Congress so imperfectly began.

CONGRATULATING JOHN AND BEVERLY "MITZIE" MUTER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John and Beverly "Mitzie" Muter of Port Hope, Michigan, as they prepare to celebrate fifty years of marriage and a life-long commitment to each other and their three children. John and Mitzie's dedication and loving relationship serves as a beautiful and inspiring model for their family, friends and neighbors.

In the early 1950s, Mitzie and her parents stopped to get something to eat at a tavern in the small community of Lewisville, Michigan, when John spotted her across the room and told his friends that she was the girl he was going to marry. After a year-long courtship, John proposed and Mary Lou accepted. They were married on the thirtieth of May 1953 in Saints Peter and Paul Church in Ruth.

John and Mitzie lived, worked and raised three wonderful children, John Jr., Jill and Jamie, in Saint Clair Shores. Mitzie devoted her life to raising and nurturing the children and providing a stable and supportive family environment. John had a long and distinguished career as a master electrician until his retirement, giving him more time to spend with Mitzie, their children and grandchildren. After John's retirement about 20 years ago, the couple moved to their farm in Port Hope. Mitzie then opened and ran a clothing store, Mitzie's Fashion Boutique, in Harbor Beach for many years.

Family members recall the many pleasures of summers, weekends and winter holidays spent at the Muter family farm in Port Hope. In the winter, John, Mitzie, family and friends enjoyed snowmobiling and other cold-weather activities. Summers found them fishing, gardening, attending church picnics and heading off to county fairs. Over the years, the love and commitment that John and Mitzie showed for each other and the children created an incredible bond that has extended to their grandchildren and beyond.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating John and Mitzie as they approach the milestone of fifty years of marriage. A good marriage is one of life's most cherished covenants because it represents a declaration of love, and, as Paul said in his Letter to the Corinthians, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, but do not have love, I am nothing." I am confident that John and Mitzie's love for each will endure into eternity and I wish them many future years of marital bliss.

RECOGNIZING DR. JAMES WITHERS

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the House's attention to one of my constituents who has recently been recognized for his efforts to provide medical care to southwestern Pennsylvania's homeless population.

Dr. James S. Withers, M.D., will be receiving a 2002 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership award on September 24 at the National Press Club. Dr. Withers is the founder and Medical Director of Operation Safety Net in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Each year the Community Health Leadership Program honors ten outstanding individuals who have found innovative ways to bring health care to communities where health care needs have been ignored and unmet. Each award winner receives \$120,000—\$105,000 for program support and \$15,000 for a personal stipend.

Dr. Withers, who teaches medicine at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh, has been actively involved in providing health care to local homeless residents since 1993. In that year, he founded Operation Safety Net to provide this care. Operation Safety Net currently has 16 volunteer teams which seek out homeless individuals and address their health care needs. Operation Safety Net currently serves about 900 patients a year, many of whom suffer from substance abuse and mental illness.

Dr. Withers has said that the award money will be used as matching funds for a grant to carry out a 3-year plan to improve health care for the homeless and develop methods for measuring the results of such efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend Dr. Withers for all of his hard work and congratulate him on the recognition of his efforts with a Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Award.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIS "SNAKE"
MURRAY

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a great privilege to pay tribute to my friend and confidant, Willis "Snake" Murray, one of the most unsung leaders of our Miami-Dade County community and Florida. On Thursday, September 26, 2002, in Tampa, Florida, he will be conferred the prestigious 2002 C. Colburn Hardy Older Advocate Award. This honor symbolizes the state's highest recognition for volunteer leadership exemplified by Mr. Murray in his role as advocate par excellence for older persons.

I commend this decision by the officers and members of the Florida Foundation on Active Aging, which established this award in June 1998 to honor C. Colburn Hardy of West Palm Beach. It memorializes Mr. Hardy's work as a former New Jersey State Legislator, community leader and author of numerous publications and financial books, including "Social Security: The Crisis in America's Social Security System." It also dignifies his spirit of consecration to the well-being of senior citizens throughout this nation via his crucial role in the Pepper Commission for Older Americans and the White House Conferences on Aging.

Mr. Willis Murray succinctly epitomizes the disarming personality of a gentleman and the resilience of a trailblazer. One of the distinguished members of Booker T. Washington's Class of 1943 in Miami, he went on to obtain his bachelor's and master's degrees from Florida A&M University, and attended post-graduate studies at Barry University and University of Miami.

He has always had the knack of being at the forefront of the struggles of African-Americans and other minority groups in their quest for simple justice and fairness. Nowhere has this struggle been aptly defined than in his unequivocal stance of equality of opportunity for everyone in our community, be it in the arena of academic excellence for all children or in the ongoing struggle for economic and political empowerment for disenfranchised Americans.

Willis Murray is the consummate activist who abides by the dictum that those who have less in life, through no fault of their own, should be helped by the government, regardless of their race, creed, age or gender. While many have been inspired by his brand of unabashed sincerity, countless others have been motivated to follow his example for his unrelenting penchant for taking up any cause that would buttress the dignity of his fellow human beings, particularly our elder citizens.

Countless admirers and friends will honor Mr. Murray at a gathering of people from all political and philosophical persuasions throughout Florida. This celebration comes at a time when our state and this nation sorely need the exemplary services of senior advocates who, despite their busy schedules during their retirement, still find time to reach out to the less fortunate and create opportunities and programs that enhance the lives of our senior citizens.

This honoree may be just an ordinary guy trying to face his responsibilities each day to his own immediate family, and yet he has

been extraordinary in giving of himself to his fellow human beings. If there was ever a more dynamic personality who genuinely exalts the good name and stellar reputation of good, public servants, then this honoree would admirably fit that billing.

Mr. Willis Murray is a veritable dynamo as a community activist. A leader imbued with a genuine ecumenical spirit, he is also an indefatigable organizer for causes that may well indict the status quo on one hand, but yet inspire the confidence of our disenfranchised senior citizenry on the other. His manifold charitable actions toward others genuinely matches the depth of his Judeo-Christian faith. Time and time again he has willingly volunteered his expertise and resources to many organizations that often look up to his unique brand of no-nonsense leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this deserving honoree proudly symbolizes the remarkable, unusual strength of my community and my state of Florida. Urged on by his genuine Faith in Almighty God, he so chose to abide by the injunction of his stewardship that Faith without good works is dead..." And he so chose to give credence to the fact that God is indeed alive and well and present among us through his works of volunteerism and good will.

Mr. Speaker, Willis Murray is a unique manifestation of compassion whose courageous vision and pragmatic approach to leadership evokes our hope and optimism inherent in the idealism of the American spirit. It is my humble prayer that, as my years of service in this august body draw to a close, I would become less unworthy of the trust and confidence he has so generously entrusted to me for so many years.

IN HONOR OF FRANKIE M. MENO

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I share with you an open letter written to the American public by my constituent, Frankie Michael Meno. This letter was composed to recognize the losses of September 11, 2001, on the one-year anniversary of the terror attacks against America. Mr. Meno's letter was accompanied by a CD containing a song, "America", which he wrote, and performed in the company of his step-children, nieces, and nephews: Jessica, Sarah, and Mason Inder, and Shay, Daverin, and Davin Diaz.

Mr. Meno, a resident of Inarajan, Guam, began writing songs in 2000. He finds the process simple as the melody and words coming to him almost automatically. His song "America" was inspired by the pride he felt watching the closing ceremonies of the Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, where people of all nationalities, languages, and colors came together as one. Mr. Meno hopes "America's message of peace and freedom can be extended to all corners of the world".

In speaking of Mr. Meno, I wish to convey to you his pride in America and his 16 years service with the U.S. Marines, his love of his family and children Christelle, Joseph, Antonia, and Jessica, and his grandchildren Isaiah and Jaythan, and his desire to use his song making abilities to help the victims of the ter-

rorist attacks and to assist rebuilding Guam's educational system. Mr. Meno's song is one patriotic American's expression of our nation's feelings of loss, recognition of our citizens' heroism, and the ultimate hope that America's freedom can be shared with the world. These sentiments are held by all of us, and I am glad to be able to share this letter with you today.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2002

DEAR FELLOW AMERICANS, on this day, we join you in remembering your loved ones who left us on September 11, 2001. We would like to join with you in recognizing and remembering the brave men and women of the New York Fire Department, the New York Police Department, and the other heroes who sacrificed their lives to save another's. It is these extraordinary deeds from ordinary people that make us all proud to call ourselves Americans; your voices and deeds will never be forgotten.

My family and the people of Guam salute and embrace the American people and the noble ideas they stand for. I dedicate this song to the mothers and fathers, the sons and daughters, and the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to bring freedom and democracy to the island of Guam during World War II. I would also like to dedicate it to the American servicemen and to the people all over the world who long for freedom and democracy. I dream of the day when all the children of the world will be able to enjoy liberty's blessings. God bless Guam, God bless America, and God bless the world.

Semper Fidelis,

FRANKIE MICHAEL MENO.

TRIBUTE TO JACK AND PATTI
SALTER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the dedication of the City of Royal Oak's community center in the name of Jack and Patti Salter. This is a most fitting tribute to a couple so vital to the fabric of the Royal Oak community.

The new community stands on the site, and will continue to house, the Boys & Girls Club of South Oakland County. To many of us, the name of this Club and Jack Salter are synonymous as he was the executive director of this organization for over thirty years from August 1958 until February 1991.

During Jack Salter's tenure as executive director, the Club received 21 National Honor Awards for Program Excellence and 13 honorable mentions from Boys & Girls Clubs of America. That is more than any single Boys & Girls Club in the country. In addition, seven Club members were selected as Michigan Youth of the Year, and four Club members were Midwest Youth of the Year and traveled to our nation's Capitol to meet the President.

Jack and Patti Salter are examples of what makes the Royal Oak community so strong. They share a tireless commitment to our youth, a passion for grassroots activism and a warmth of character that draws people to them and their causes. I have been privileged to call them friends.

The mission statement for the Boys & Girls Club is: To inspire and enable all young people to help them realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

Jack and Patti have surely inspired and they have made a difference in the lives of so many of our young people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jack and Patti Salter for all they have done to benefit the youth in South Oakland County, and to congratulate them on this day as the new community center in Royal Oak, Michigan is dedicated as the Jack and Patti Salter Community Center.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, one of the profound issues in world affairs today relates to the widespread perception abroad that the United States has become so disproportionately powerful that we need no longer be constrained in our actions by international rules, treaties, and even traditional security partnerships. This perception has helped fuel mistrust of American motives and resentment of American power, potentially hobbling the effectiveness of U.S. foreign policy at a critical juncture in world politics.

In many respects, controversy surrounding the new International Criminal Court is an apt symbol for this debate. The International Criminal Court, which came into being on July 1, will be the first global permanent international court with jurisdiction to prosecute the most heinous individual violators of human rights—genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

The United Nations, many human rights organizations, and many U.S. allies have expressed support for the new court. The Administration, however, strongly opposes it and has renounced any U.S. obligations under the treaty.

Although the U.S. has several valid concerns about the ICC—chiefly that the ICC might become politicized and capriciously assert jurisdiction over U.S. soldiers or high officials charged with “war crimes”—our belligerent opposition to the Court also carries obvious downside risks to American leadership.

America’s well-deserved reputation as a champion for human rights and extension of the rule of law has been called into question. Our efforts to play hardball in the UN Security Council by threatening to withhold support for UN peacekeeping missions unless the U.S. is granted immunity from the ICC alienated friends and allies abroad. The withholding of military assistance to members of the ICC may be seen as an attempt to undermine the court and influence the decisions of other countries to join the ICC. By demanding special treatment in the form of immunity from the ICC, the US may be seen as bolstering the perception of its preference for a unilateral approach to world affairs and a determination to operate in the world exclusively on our own terms. As a result, U.S. efforts to build coalitions in support for the war against terrorism as well as the enforcement of UN resolutions against Iraq may have been impaired.

Mr. Speaker, as an early advocate for the establishment of a permanent international

criminal court based on balanced recognition of international statutes, I confess to being chagrined both at the inability of the international community to accommodate legitimate American concerns, and the all-or-nothing approach of our government that has left us without effective means to ensure that the ICC operates in ways that are consistent both with credible rule of law principles and with sensitivity to U.S. interests designed to advance democratic governance.

The problem is that as a great power called upon to intervene in areas of the world or disputes such as the Balkans, Afghanistan and troubled areas of the Middle East, the U.S. is vulnerable to charges being leveled against actions which we might reasonably consider to be peacekeeping, but another power or government might charge to be something very different. For instance, what would happen if Serbia were to bring a case against an American naval pilot when such a pilot is operating under both a U.S. and NATO mandate? The President has suggested we should, exclusive of all other countries, be allowed a veto over applicability of international law with regard to the ICC. Many other countries, including strong U.S. allies, have angst about this demand because they see this approach as establishing the principle of one country being entitled to operate above the law.

This is not an unresolvable dilemma. When the ICC treaty was under negotiation, it was the assumption of many that the Security Council where all the permanent members have a veto would play a determinative role in bringing matters before the ICC. If such was the case, the U.S. could fully protect itself as could the other permanent members. Unfortunately, because the past administration played a confused, ambivalent role in development of the treaty, it failed to get this common sense approach adopted and put the new administration in the embarrassing position of objecting to an important treaty because of the failed diplomacy of its predecessors.

Based on discussions with representatives of several governments sympathetic to the U.S. dilemma it is my understanding that there may be an inclination to seek a reasonable compromise on treaty language, even at this late date. It would appear to be an umbrage to many countries to craft a provision excluding the U.S. alone from ICC jurisdiction, but it would seem not unreasonable on a process basis to return to a Security Council role. On this basis the U.S. and the international community should be credibly protected.

The court would function as a treaty organization founded on state consent, while respecting Security Council authority to refer any matters affecting international peace and security to the court’s jurisdiction. This approach has the advantage that it does not make a pure exception for the United States. Understandable concerns about inequitable protection of the nationals of permanent members of the Council would need to be balanced against the enhanced durability and legitimacy of the institution.

Mr. Speaker, I have long believed that laws, to be effective, must constrain governments in their foreign policies as well as individuals in domestic acts, and that in order to hold governments accountable there must be individual accountability at the highest as well as lowest levels of society. Justice must be brought to the international frontier or life for too many

will, in Hobbes’ piercing phrase, continue to be “nasty, brutish, and short.” Creation of an ICC is a step in the direction of evolving international society but it only makes sense if the United States is able to join without concern for the legitimate exercise of its global responsibilities.

The United States should thus seek revision or a protocol to the treaty ensconcing a Security Council role. Such an approach would achieve American objectives without calling for exclusive consideration.

REPRESENTATION OF TAIWAN IN THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, one of the most challenging issues facing the United Nations General Assembly this fall is representation of Taiwan in the United Nations. U.N. Resolution 2758 (XXVI) of October 25, 1971, which seated the People’s Republic of China in the United Nations, did not properly address the Taiwan issue. Recently, China has indicated its willingness to allow Taiwan to join the United Nations but only if Taiwan acknowledges the “one-China” policy.

Since the U.N. Resolution in 1971, Taiwan has not had the opportunity to join the most powerful and influential group of nations in the world, the United Nations, and this has caused harm for the people of Taiwan. They have been denied the right to be a part of U.N. work and activities. For example, while Taiwan is willing and able to contribute its resources to combat AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, Taiwan has been denied the chance to participate in U.N. sponsored HIV/AIDS conferences and other similar health organization gatherings. Taiwan has also been denied access to major international conferences such as the development conference held in Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002, and the U.N. General Assembly Special Session on Children in May 2002. In truth, Taiwan’s exclusion from the U.N. raises serious concerns about the rights of the Taiwanese people under the U.N. Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and other international human rights provisions.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to speak out in support of Taiwan. Taiwan is a sovereign state and conducts full diplomatic relations with 27 member states of the United Nations. Moreover, Taiwan has membership in a number of major international organizations, including the World Trade Organization. Taiwan should be recognized for what it is—a nation that shares democratic values with the United States and a nation that deserves active participation in the United Nations.

HAPPY CENTENNIAL, BOROUGH OF BEAVER, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, in 1802 a small lot of 200 acres was established as a borough in

western Pennsylvania. At the time, it was home to little more than 30 houses, but over the next two centuries, it blossomed into the strong, vibrant community that it is today.

The Borough of Beaver is currently celebrating its bicentennial, and on Saturday, September 21st, its residents will take to the streets in a beautiful parade to conclude their yearlong festivities.

The Borough of Beaver has a proud history and has produced some of the most dedicated public servants in Pennsylvania's history, including Daniel Agnew (1808–1902), a Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and Matthew S. Quay (1833–1904), a U.S. Senator.

The Borough was once described as the 'the seat of justice,' and it has remained true to this name. Beaver is a community where people pride themselves in their dedication to family, faith, work and their fellow neighbors. It is a place where you could barely walk down the street without running into a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me today in wishing this strong, resilient community our best wishes as they celebrate their 200th birthday. They helped build America into the great nation that we all cherish so dearly, and they continue today as a model for all communities to look up to.

Borough of Beaver, happy bicentennial, and we wish you another 200 years of growth and prosperity!

TRIBUTE TO THE RESERVES FORCES POLICY BOARD

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the Reserve Forces Policy Board on its 50th Anniversary. The Reserve Forces Policy Board was created by the Armed Forces Reserve Act of 1952 (Public Law 82–476) to represent members of the Guard and Reserve as their advocate to the Secretary of Defense and Congress. Today, it continues to provide leadership to the Department of Defense with timely and independent advice on matters pertaining to the Reserve Components. During the Gulf War and again in the aftermath of September 11th, our nation's reliance upon the Reserve components has become increasingly clear.

For its fine work as an independent source of advice to the Secretary of Defense on all matters pertaining to the Reserve components, I commend and recognize the Reserve Forces Policy Board on its 50th Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN JOHN V. STIVERS

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Captain John V. Stivers, Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Lemoore at Lemoore, California since 1999. After a long and suc-

cessful career in the Navy, he is retiring on January 1, 2003.

Captain Stivers enlisted in the U.S. Navy in November 1970 and was assigned to NAS Lemoore as an Air Traffic Controller. Later, he graduated from the University of Idaho with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering, and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1977.

Captain Stivers's visionary leadership and unrelenting personal drive are directly responsible for the unparalleled infrastructure improvements at NAS Lemoore, and successful career of distinctive accomplishments. Additionally, his infectious enthusiasm combined with a true grasp of local issues allowed him to build an extraordinary relationship with the surrounding communities of Lemoore and Hanford.

Captain Stivers, among many other accomplishments, superbly led and directed NAS Lemoore through a critical period of regional reorganization. This included the execution of a congressionally supported plan that invested over \$500 million in construction and renovations of hangars, weapons facilities, airfield pavements, maintenance facilities, barracks and housing, Navy Exchange, Navy College, Commissary and numerous Quality of Life/Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities. Moreover, all of these challenges were met during a period in which NAS Lemoore experienced a 30 percent growth in military personnel, with the addition of a new fleet replacement squadron and three FA–18E/F fleet squadrons.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Captain John V. Stivers on the occasion of his retirement from military duty. I wish him a favorable departure and continued success.

TRIBUTE TO DOUG LINNEY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to pay tribute to Doug Linney, a young man who has dedicated his life to helping preserve California's environment. Doug was a member of my District Office staff in 1983 and 1984, so he is special to me.

Doug is being presented with the Mark Dubois Award by the Friends of the River on October 3rd. This is a most deserved honor as Doug has served California's environmental community for more than twenty years. He has been a passionate advocate, a savvy strategist, a coalition builder and an exceptional fund raiser.

Doug began his career with Friends of the River as a staff member, later becoming a member of the Board of Directors and a generous supporter. From 1988 to 1994, he was Political Director of the California League of Conservation Voters, where he worked to elect pro-environment candidates. He still serves as a board member of that organization, and also as co-chair of its Environmental Leadership Forum.

Over the years, Doug has developed expertise in the areas of water, solid waste, forestry and environmental tax reform issues, and many organizations have benefited from his knowledge and experience. In addition to his

work on behalf of the California League of Conservation Voters and Friends of the River, he has served on the boards of directors of EcoVenture and the Planning and Conservation League. He is also a Director of the East Bay Municipal Utilities District.

Doug founded The Next Generation, a public relations and campaign consulting firm based in Oakland, California. He is now president of that company. He is committed to creating a healthier environment for generations to come. We are indebted to him for caring about our future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Doug Linney whose life work is an inspiration to all of us.

TRIBUTE TO LAJOS KOSSUTH, HUNGARIAN CHAMPION OF DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM, ON THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today, September 19, 2002, is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Lajos Kossuth—Hungarian freedom fighter, democratic visionary, and frequently called "the George Washington of Hungary." Kossuth is the symbol of democracy, representative government, and national independence of the Hungarian people.

On this bicentennial of the birth of Lajos Kossuth, the Hungarian government has held a parliamentary anniversary day, convened conferences, restored monuments and held historical competitions. For Hungarians, Kossuth is not only the leading symbol in Hungary's quest for a democratic society, he is also a key figure in the development of the consciousness of the Hungarian nation.

During the middle of the 19th century, Kossuth came to symbolize these democratic values and respect for human rights in the United States and in Europe as well. As an official guest of the United States government for six months in 1851–1852, Kossuth was the first non-American in our nation's history after the Marquis de Lafayette to have the honor of addressing the Senate and the House of Representatives.

American journalist Horace Greeley said of him in 1852: "Of the many popular leaders who were upheaved by the great convulsions of 1848 . . . the world has already definitely assigned the first rank to Louis Kossuth—advocate, deputy, finance minister, and finally governor of Hungary." American man of letters Ralph Waldo Emerson, in welcoming Kossuth to the town of Concord, Massachusetts, where the American revolution began said: "We only see in you the angel of freedom."

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his role as a symbol of democracy and the relationship between the American and Hungarian people, a bust of Lajos Kossuth was placed in the United States Capitol on March 15, 1990. My wife Annette was the motivating force behind that inspired effort. On that occasion in 1990 the Hungarian people were on the cusp of their liberation from the communist governments that dominated the country for the previous 45 years. Our celebration of the placement of the Kossuth statue in our Capitol building provided the occasion for us to pay

tribute to Lajos Kossuth, his contribution to democracy, and the close links that he forged between Hungary and the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Lajos Kossuth was born on September 19, 1802 in Monok, Zemplon County, Hungary. He was born in modest circumstances, though his father was a member of the gentry. Following his father's profession, he became an attorney, and began his career as an agent for a local nobleman. In 1832 at the young age of 30, he was designated a substitute to represent a noble in the Hungarian Diet (Parliament). In this position, he produced a record of the Diet's proceedings, and became an advocate for political reform and national independence. This alarmed the Austrian government, and resulted in his being sentenced to a four year prison term, although he was released after serving one year. While incarcerated, he taught himself English by studying the Bible and the works of Shakespeare.

In 1847 Kossuth was elected to the Diet as a representative of the county of Pest. He became the leader of the opposition Reform Party, and urged extensive political and social reforms. The outbreak of the 1848 revolution in Paris and Vienna gave the reform movement new impetus. In powerful speeches to the Diet in March of 1848, Kossuth demanded the removal of the dead hand of Austrian absolutism as the only way to protect the liberties of the Hungarian and other peoples of the Austrian empire, and he called for the adoption of representative democratic government throughout Austria.

On March 15, Hungarians in the city of Pest staged a massive peaceful demonstration demanding their independence from Austria. That same day in Vienna, Kossuth and other parliamentary delegates presented demands to the Austrian imperial court for virtual independence of Hungary. The panicked court accepted the Hungarian demands, and a Hungarian government was appointed by the emperor. March 15 remains a Hungarian national holiday in commemoration of this occasion. Kossuth served in the key role of Minister of Finance. Kossuth's oratorical prowess and his commitment to social and political reform soon made him the most popular and highly regarded member of the government.

As the Hungarian government adopted ever bolder reforms and asserted its independence from Vienna, the Austrian government began an effort to reassert its control. In September 1848 an Austrian army invaded Hungary, the Prime Minister resigned, and Kossuth was named President of the Committee of National Defense. He mobilized the Hungarian nation against overwhelming odds and instilled in the people the determination to resist Austrian absolutism.

Initially Kossuth and the Hungarian forces succeeded in driving the Austrian troops back nearly to Vienna, but the superior military power of the Austrians resulted in the occupation of Budapest in January 1849. In March of 1849, a new emperor, Franz Josef I, was installed, and he immediately annulled the previous decree acknowledging Hungary's autonomy. In April, the Hungarians rallied and expelled most Austrian military forces from the country. Under Kossuth's leadership, the elected Hungarian Diet declared the independence of the nation in a document influenced by our own American Declaration of Independence. At that same time, Kossuth was elected "Governor-President" of Hungary, responsible to the elected representatives in parliament.

The Austrian government and military forces were unable to reestablish control of Hungarian areas of the empire, and meanwhile, the Russian tsar and his government became paranoid about the possibility that Hungary's embrace of democracy and representative government could influence peoples within its boundaries. With the acquiescence of Austria, a massive Russian army invaded Hungary in June 1849. The badly outnumbered Hungarian military force surrendered six weeks later. The Russians carried out brutal reprisals against leaders of the independent Hungarian government and the Hungarian army.

Kossuth, many of his loyal followers and thousands of Hungarian troops were able to flee to Turkey. Under pressure from the governments of the United Kingdom, the United States, and other west European states, the Turkish sultan refused Russian and Austrian demands that Kossuth be returned to their control. Kossuth was taken from Turkey on the US frigate *Mississippi*. He made brief stops in France and England, and he arrived in New York City on December 5, 1851. His arrival was an occasion of remarkable celebration. U.S. Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts later recalled that occasion in these terms: "I remember the landing of Kossuth. The admiration, . . . enthusiasm, . . . love of people, gave him an ovation which only two men had ever received—Washington and Lafayette."

Over the next six months, Mr. Speaker, Kossuth was received by the President of the United States, the Senate and the House of Representatives, and he traveled throughout the United States. An indication of the enthusiasm which Kossuth's visit to our country generated is that fact that a county was named after this Hungarian freedom fighter in Iowa; towns were named in his honor in Indiana, Mississippi, New York, and Ohio; and many American cities have streets or avenues named for him in places such as St. Louis, New York City, Buffalo, Providence, and Trenton.

Mr. Speaker, the visit of Kossuth to the United States in 1851–1852 immediately involved him in critical foreign and domestic policy issues facing the American people. U.S. involvement in the struggle for democracy and independence in Europe was the first of these questions. Many American leaders favored our active participation and support for that struggle, while others strongly opposed any involvement beyond our borders. By his very presence in our country, Kossuth—the leader of the best known revolution against absolutism, monarchy, and repression of the mid-19th century—gave powerful support to those who favored American involvement in the international fight for freedom and democracy.

Kossuth, during his stay in Washington, made a particularly noteworthy comment: "It is a remarkable fact in the history of mankind that while in the past honors were bestowed upon glory and glory was attached only to success, the legislative authorities of this great republic bestow the highest honors upon the persecuted in exile, not conspicuous by glory, not favored by success, but engaged in a just cause."

Lajos Kossuth was also a fervent foe of bigotry, racism, and anti-Semitism, and in a world where such values are increasingly under attack, it is useful to recall his remarks on this topic: "I have never had and never will differentiate between man and man, based on race, language or religion; as a man of the nineteenth century I am ashamed by the anti-Semitic agitation, as a Hungarian I feel repentant towards, as a patriot I scorn anti-Semitic agitation. I am scornful of anti-Semitism for the additional reason of its presentation of the social and economic problems not as symptoms but causes, depicting the Jews as they would have serve foreign interests preventing the well being of our country. This sentiment distracts attention from the recognition of the real reasons of these problems, the urgency and search for solutions. I consider the principle of discrimination based on race, language or religion not only a moral but a political impossibility."

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in marking the bicentennial of the birth of the great Hungarian statesman and freedom fighter, Lajos Kossuth. It is most appropriate that we in the United States mark the occasion of his birth and recognize the positive impact he has had upon Hungary and other nations throughout the world, including our own. He was greatly influenced by the values and principles of American democracy, and our nation was enriched by his visit here a century and a half ago and by his life-long commitment to the values and principles we share.